# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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## Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.


**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Arab-Israeli Talks**

Israel, Jordan Sign Agenda for Negotiations ..... 1
'Text' of Joint Agenda *[Amman TV]* ..... 1
Rubinstein on Significance of Agenda *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 1
Chief Delegate on Timetable for Agreement *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ..... 2
Al-Tarawinah on Agenda's Main Points *[Amman TV]* ..... 2
Agenda Termed 'Comprehensive' *[Jerusalem International]* ..... 3

**Palestinian Affairs**

'Arafat Expresses Hope for Implementation of Accord *[Paris TV]* ..... 3
Comments on U.S. Visit *[London TV]* ..... 3
Comments on Plans for State *[Algiers TV]* ..... 4
Discusses Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Sep]* ..... 5
Defends Main Points of Agreement *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 9-15 Sep]* ..... 7
'Urayqat Interviewed on Peace Process, Future State *[Paris LE FIGARO 14 Sep]* ..... 9
Bal'awi: PNC To Convene in Jerusalem in 'Near Future' *[HA'ARETZ 14 Sep]* ..... 10
Al-Sa'ih Criticizes Agreement With Israel *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Sep]* ..... 11
Jibril Says 'Arafat To Pay for 'High Treason' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* ..... 11
DFLP, PFLP Say Agreement Not Binding *[SANA]* ..... 11
Arab Liberation Front Rejects PLO-Israel Agreement *[INA]* ..... 12
Commentary Says National Rights To Prevail *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* ..... 12

**ARAB AFRICA**

**Egypt**

Mubarak Greets King Husayn on Agenda Signing *[MENA]* ..... 13
Mubarak Phones Saudi King, Reviews Peace Efforts *[Cairo Radio]* ..... 13
'Arafat, Clinton Faulted for Not Crediting Cairo *[MENA]* ..... 13
U.S. Seen 'Shaken' by PLO-Israeli Agreement *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 11 Sep]* ..... 13
'Positive Factors' in PLO-Israel Accord Noted *[Cairo Radio]* ..... 14
Al-Baz: Rabin Visit to Morocco 'Not' Significant *[Cairo Radio]* ..... 15
Death Sentences in al-Shawqiyun Case Approved *[MENA]* ..... 15
Military Court Sentences Two to Die in Zinhum Case *[MENA]* ..... 15
Police Deny Storming of al-Rahmah Mosque in Asyut *[MENA]* ..... 15
Police Shoot 'Islamic Militant' During Search *[AFP]* ..... 15

**Morocco**

Rabin, Peres Visit Rabat, Meet King Hassan ..... 16
Leaders Arrive 14 Sep *[Rabat Radio]* ..... 16
Rabin Hails Hassan's Peace Efforts *[MAP]* ..... 16
King Receives Rabin, Peres *[Rabat Radio]* ..... 16
Diplomatic Ties Said in 'Near Future' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 16
Rabin, Peres Hold News Conference *[Rabat TV]* ..... 17
Rabin, Peres Depart Rabat *[Rabat Radio]* ..... 18
Rabin Denies Visit Aimed at Establishing Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 18
Rabin, Peres Cancel Visit to Tunisia *[Jerusalem TV]* ..... 19

**Tunisia**

Report on Diplomatic Ties With Israel Denied *[Damascus Radio]* ..... 19

**ARABIAN PENINSULA**

**Bahrain**

Amir Meets Iranian Envoy, Urges Regional Cooperation *[IRNA]* ..... 20

**Kuwait**

Paper Notes Need for Israel To 'Uphold Arab Rights' *[KUNA]* ..... 20

**Saudi Arabia**

King Talks by Phone With Kuwaiti, Egyptian Leaders *[Riyadh TV]* ..... 20
Prince 'Abdallah Receives Call From Kuwaiti Premier *[SPA]* ..... 20
PLO-Israel Accord, Need for Palestinian Unity Viewed *[SPA]* ..... 20
Press Examines Potential Obstacles on Road to Peace *[SPA]* ..... 21

**IRAQ**

PLO's Qaddumi Visits, Meets With Tariq 'Aziz *[Baghdad Radio]* ..... 22
'Most Senior' Air Force Officer Reportedly Executed *[Voice of Kurdistan]* ..... 22
Extensive Regime Offensive in Marshlands Reported *[Voice of Kurdistan]* ..... 22
Late August Rebel Operations Reported *[Voice of Iraqi People]* ..... 22
Mujahidin Kill 'Mercenary' in al-Nasiriyah *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* ..... 22
Cabinet Discusses Cultivation, Harvest Issues *[INA]* ..... 22
Israeli-Arab-Turkish Electricity Cooperation Cited *[Baghdad Radio]* ..... 22
Media 'Blackout' on U.S. 'Crime' in Somalia Hit *[INA]* ..... 23
Arab 'Indifference' Decried *[INA]* ..... 23
Recent Allied Air Activity Protested to Arab League ..... 23
4, 5 Sep 'Violations' Reported *[INA]* ..... 23
6-9 Sep Sorties Noted *[INA]* ..... 24
Airspace Violations Detailed *[INA]* ..... 24
10-11 Sep 'Violations' Protested *[INA]* ..... 24
Letter to UN Protests U.S. Spy Plane Flights *[INA]* ..... 24

**ISRAEL**

Rabin, Peres Return, Comment on Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 25
Plan for Talks With Jordan Reported *[HA'ARETZ 15 Sep]* ..... 25
Der'i Calls For Referendum; Resignation Takes Effect *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 26
Netanyahu Opposes Referendum, Calls For Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 26
Beilin Interviewed on 'Moderate' PLO, Confederation *[MENA]* ..... 26
Discusses Direction of Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 26
General Closure Imposed on Gaza Strip 15-19 Sep *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ..... 27
IDF Troops Instructed on Conduct in Wake of Accord *[HA'ARETZ 14 Sep]* ..... 27
Soldiers Wounded, 'Terrorist' Killed in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 28
Gaza Resident Blows Self Up at Police Station *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 28

**JORDAN**

Al-Majali Holds News Conference on Agenda Agreement *[Amman TV]* ..... 29
Further on News Conference *[Amman TV]* ..... 30
King Receives Telephone Call From Mubarak *[Amman Radio]* ..... 33
King Husayn Telephones President al-Asad *[Amman TV]* ..... 33
Paper Hopes for 'Serious' Implementation of Agenda *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 15 Sep]* ..... 33
Agenda: Step on 'Long, Tortuous' Road *[JORDAN TIMES 15 Sep]* ..... 34
Success of PLO-Israel Pact Depends on World Support *[JORDAN TIMES 14 Sep]* ..... 34

Accord 'First Step' Down Road to Peace *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Sep]* ..... 35

## LEBANON

Officials React To 13 Sep Shooting of Demonstrators ..... 36
Nasrallah Condemns Government *[VOL]* ..... 36
Week of Mourning Declared *[Beirut Radio]* ..... 36
Syria in Campaign To 'Calm Tempers' *[VOL]* ..... 36
'Stormy Debate' Ensues *[VOL]* ..... 36
Buwayz Pledges Thorough Investigation *[Beirut Radio]* ..... 37
PSP Blames Political Authorities *[VOM]* ..... 37
Syrian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive in Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* ..... 37
IDF Officer Wounded in Shooting Incidents *[Jerusalem Radio]* ..... 38
• Al-Jumayyil Criticizes Loss of Independence *[London AL-HAYAH 31 Aug]* ..... 38

## SYRIA

Khaddam Receives PFLP's Habash, Stresses Support *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... 45
PLA Chief of Staff Vows Loyalty to Al-Asad *[SANA]* ..... 45
Signing Ceremony for PLO-Israeli Accord Criticized *[Damascus Radio]* ..... 45
Rabin Opposes Withdrawal to Pre-'67 Borders *[Damascus Radio]* ..... 46

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

Attack from Russian Territory, Overflights Reported *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 47
Tehran Radio Notes Shelling ..... 47
Hezb-e Eslami's Hekmatyar Attacks Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 47
Decree Forms Body To Draft Interim Basic Law *[Kabul Radio]* ..... 47

### Bangladesh

Education Minister Khan Tenders Resignation *[Dhaka Radio]* ..... 48
Three Cabinet Ministers Inducted, Portfolios Changed *[Dhaka Radio]* ..... 48

### India

Rao Views Accord With China as Positive Breakthrough *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 48
Panelists View Outcome of Rao's PRC Visit *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 48
ISRO Chief Says Contract With Glavkosmos Not Broken *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 52

### Iran

Paper: 'Arafat 'Treason' Punishable by Death *[AFP]* ..... 52
IRNA on U.S. 'Backdoor Entry' Into Peace Deal ..... 52
Interior Minister, Syrian Envoy on PLO-Israeli Pact *[IRNA]* ..... 53
Commentary: Accord Forces PLO To Quash Intifadah *[Tehran International]* ..... 53
Rafsanjani, Yeltsin View Ties, Regional Problems *[Tehran Radio]* ..... 54
Oil Ministry Denies Transfer of Iraqi Oil *[IRNA]* ..... 54
Turkish Move To Cooperate With Iraq Viewed *[Tehran International]* ..... 54

### Nepal

Top Communist Leader Calls For Change in Foreign Policy *[AFP]* ..... 55

### Pakistan

Qureshi: No Plans To Recognize Israel 'At the Moment' *[Islamabad TV]* ..... 55
President Reiterates Country's Nuclear Policy *[Islamabad TV]* ..... 55
Article Urges Cost-Effective Defense *[THE NEWS 13 Sep]* ..... 56

## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Israel, Jordan Sign Agenda for Negotiations

#### 'Text' of Joint Agenda

*JN1409191693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Sep 93*

["Full and verbatim text of the joint agenda agreed upon between Jordan and Israel"]

[Text] A. Goal: To achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians, and Israel as stated in the Madrid invitation.

B. The Basic Elements of the Peace Negotiations Between Jordan and Israel:

1. Seeking steps to reach a state of peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.

2. Security:

a. Refraining from any actions by any party that could adversely affect the security of the other party or that could prejudge the final outcome of the negotiations.

b. Security threats resulting from all kinds of terrorism.

c. Mutual commitment that no party shall threaten the other party by any use of force, and that no party shall use weapons against the other party, including conventional and nonconventional weapons of mass destruction.

d. Mutual commitment to the priority and urgent task of working to create a Middle East free of conventional and nonconventional weapons of mass destruction. This aim will be achieved within the context of a comprehensive, lasting, and firm peace characterized by renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation, and openness.

Note: The above Paragraph c can be revised in accordance with the agreements related to this, which will be reached by the multilateral working group on reducing armament and regional security.

d. [as heard] Mutual agreement on security arrangements and confidence-building and security measures.

3. Waters:

a. Ensuring the right of each party to its share of water.

b. Seeking ways to ease the water shortage.

4. Refugees:

Seeking a just, agreed-upon solution to the bilateral aspects of the problem of refugees in accordance with international law.

5. Borders and Territorial Questions:

Settling territorial issues and drawing and defining agreed-upon international borders between Jordan and Israel, with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate, without prejudicing the status of the territories that came under the control of the Israeli Military Government in 1967. Each party shall respect and honor the international borders mentioned above.

6. Exploring prospects for future bilateral cooperation within a regional context, whenever this is appropriate, in the following fields:

a. Natural resources, waters, energy, the environment, and developing the [Jordan] Valley.

b. Human resources: Labor and manpower, health, education, and drug control.

c. Infrastructure: Land and air transport, communications.

d. Economic fields, including tourism.

7. The phased discussion, agreement, and implementation of the above paragraphs, including an appropriate mechanism to negotiate in specific fields.

8. Discussing the issues related to both tracks in the way they are jointly approved by both tracks.

9. It is hoped that, eventually and after reaching satisfactory solutions for both parties regarding the elements of this agenda, this attempt will be crowned with a peace agreement.

#### Rubinstein on Significance of Agenda

*TA1409141993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1043 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Statement by Elyaqim Rubunstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Jordan, during the signing ceremony for the Israeli-Jordanian agenda, at the State Department in Washington—live; in English]

[Text] Mr. Secretary, Mr. Posuvalyuk, my colleague and friend Ambassador al-Tarawinah of Jordan, my friend, neighbor and colleague Ambassador Bentzur, members of our two delegations, members of the U.S. and Russian Administrations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today we are making yet another step in the long road to peace between Israel and Jordan within the joint effort embodied in the Madrid formula towards a comprehensive peace. The direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan have achieved this common agenda, which obviously is more than a list of items to be negotiated. It details and summarizes the principles which will guide us in the coming negotiations.

We have great respect for Jordan, for his majesty the king and the government's efforts towards democratization. We happen to know well Prime Minister al-Majali, who preceded Dr. al-Tarawinah as head of the delegation, and with whom this agenda was initially negotiated. We wish him well.

The Israeli-Jordanian relationship will continue to constitute a major cornerstone in the great enterprise of peace. They have ever been so by the nature of geography and history. Attention should be paid to nurturing it and strengthening it. We should vigorously work, credibly and reliably, to make the dream culminating in a treaty of peace come true. Indeed the good and businesslike atmosphere which has characterized our negotiations so far, including many moments of good humor, should serve to bring our mission to its final end, beyond today's milestone. Our negotiations must be widened to cover the concerns and hopes of our peoples, not only politically, but also economically and technologically developing areas which we have already started to explore as a part of our vision.

On this occasion we should reflect for a moment on the many victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Unfortunately these sad occurrences are not over. Their legacy to all of us is to continue the search for peace and security.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the members of both our delegations for their hard work. I would like to thank Ambassador Bentzur for leading our delegation during this session. We all owe gratitude to our host, the secretary of state—thank you for your personal kind words—and to the U.S. peace team for their generous assistance and hospitality. We also thank the Russian representatives for their support.

Tomorrow will mark the beginning of the new year in our calender. The next days are marked as the days of awe, in which the Almighty examines the deeds of the individual as well as the states. This accountability commands us to shoulder our responsibilities. A happy new year, and thank you very much.

### Chief Delegate on Timetable for Agreement

*TA1409161293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Telephone report by Mikha Friedman and political correspondent Natan Gutman in Washington—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Gutman] One could say that Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, kept a cool demeanor during the ceremony and the ensuing news conference. Rubinstein arrived in Washington late last night and will fly back to Israel later tonight in time for the Rosh Hashana holiday. Rubinstein has not been very cooperative with the Israeli delegation. Although his fellow delegates hold him in high regard and praise him no end, he is no longer part of the Israeli team. Asked about this issue at the news conference, he said: For the time being, I am still the head of the delegation. The issue is being discussed.

Referring to the agreement itself, he said: There were numerous moments of humor and good rapport in the talks, but we should always remember the victims of violence. We begin a new year tomorrow. The Lord will revise our deeds, and we are responsible for them. This applies to both countries and individuals.

The most interesting question he was asked in the news conference was: When will this agenda, which to all intents and purposes looks like a peace agreement, turn into real peace? Here is what he replied:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] We must take each of the items in the detailed agenda which was formally concluded today and turn it into part of a peace treaty, if I may say so. In other words, the principles of security are spelled out in the agreement, but they just have to be put into practice. The same applies to the questions of the border, water, and so on. Putting these into practice depends on the rate of progress in the negotiations and on the political agenda which must be finalized by the two sides. We would like to hope that the pace adopted by the Jordanians will be such as to bring about a peace treaty as soon as possible. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Asked to comment on 'Arafat's statement that the vision of a Palestinian state has now become a long-term objective and that the Palestinians—namely, the PLO—decided to set up a confederation with Jordan, Rubinstein said: This is a topic for discussion in the context of the deliberations about the permanent arrangement. [passage omitted]

### Al-Tarawinah on Agenda's Main Points

*JN1409143293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1347 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Speech by Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian ambassador to the United States, at the signing ceremony for the Jordanian-Israeli agenda in Washington—live]

[Text] Secretary Christopher, Ambassador Posuvalyuk, Ambassador Rubenstein, Ambassador Bentzur, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, Ladies and Gentlemen: Jordan and Israel have agreed on a formal agenda to serve as a basis for negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the bilateral Middle East peace talks. The agenda lists the items and issues to be discussed by the two sides, calling for the achievement of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians, and Israel, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects. The agenda also addresses Jordan's water rights, the achievement of a just political solution to the problem of refugees according to international law and the settlement of the borders between the two countries with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate. The agenda also includes issues of future regional economic cooperation to be discussed.

We hope this first step will be translated through the substantive and lengthy negotiations that will follow into an agreement based on comprehensive peace that will positively transform the lives of all peoples of the area. We, in Jordan, look for a global security arrangement that goes beyond the traditional definition of military

security to one that provides for economic security and wellbeing through upgrading the quality of life for the peoples in the area. The historic moments that we witnessed yesterday between the Palestinians and the Israelis gave us faith that progress in the ongoing peace process is achievable. It is our hope that similar progress will be realized on all tracks in the near future.

Allow me Mr. Secretary to express the gratitude and appreciation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to you and to all your colleagues, who have worked diligently to make this possible. I also would like to extend similar gratitude and appreciation to the Russian Government for its dedicated efforts and support. Thank you very much.

### Agenda Termed 'Comprehensive'

*JN1409174893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Report on remarks by Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian ambassador to the United States, by correspondent Rosette Hakim after the signing ceremony for the Jordanian-Israel agenda in Washington on 14 September; from the "With the Events" program; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] A new chapter of relations between Israel and the Arab states has been added to the history books with the signing of the joint Israeli-Jordanian agenda. This will clear the way for a peace treaty between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, spoke to reporters, saying:

"In fact, this agenda is a comprehensive one. It is, first, a working agenda that pertains to the negotiating process and to the Jordanian-Israeli track. It also addresses more than just the Jordanian dimension, such as regional issues related to the concerns we share with the Palestinian brothers. It is comprehensive, and we have copies of it for you. It contains nothing secret, but it will place the negotiating process on the right path. The occupied Jordanian territories are part of this agenda."

Asked about the current visits to several Arab and Islamic countries, including Morocco, by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Fayiz al-Tarawinah said:

"Decisions should be made freely. Jordan's position is that it does not interfere in other's affairs, and we want nobody to interfere in our affairs. Therefore, every state has its own independent decisions. We hope that these matters, as well as what took place yesterday, will be positive and will make changes in the psychological equation in favor of peace."

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Expresses Hope for Implementation of Accord

*LD1409210893 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 14 Sep 93*

["Exclusive" interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by correspondent Veronique Taveau on 14 September; in English with superimposed French translation; place not given—recorded]

[Text] This was not on the official agenda: Yasir 'Arafat yesterday had a private conversation with Bill Clinton at the White House. This evening, the PLO chairman is in New York to ask for UN involvement in the peace process. A short while ago, our special correspondent Veronique Taveau was granted an exclusive interview with Yasir 'Arafat:

[Taveau] How did you feel when you shook hands with Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] I was expecting it, because we are here not to have a picnic, but to implement and sign this agreement for peace in the Middle East. As you remember, I often held out a hand to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and to the Israeli cabinet to make the peace of the brave.

[Taveau] You saw that yesterday there was fresh violence in Gaza. What do you intend to do in that respect?

['Arafat] No doubt we expected this, but the Palestinian population is supporting us, and this essential accord must now be implemented, not only in Gaza, but everywhere in our occupied territories.

[Taveau] What do you say to those Israelis who are worried by this agreement?

['Arafat] Let us continue this way, the way of peace, and let us build peace together in the Holy Land.

### Comments on U.S. Visit

*LD1509111193 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by correspondent Jon Snow, in Washington on 14 September; from the "Channel 4 News" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Well Shaykh Fadlallah's views among many issues I raised with the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when I talked to him this afternoon. He's relaxed and showed no strain from being in the maelstrom of events here. He said the world could choose; Palestine could become another Somalia, or equally another Singapore. But first I asked him, was even he, after so long at war, surprised by what had happened here?

['Arafat] We were expecting it because we are coming here not to play, not to joke, not to have a picnic, but to make this agreement for peace.

[Snow] When did you first realize that this could now really happen?

['Arafat] When the Israeli people voted for peace during the last election, and especially for the program of the Labor Party and Peres and others who were stressing on peace and settlement and compromise in their political campaign.

[Snow] Has there ever been a time during your chairmanship of the PLO when you got anywhere near this point before?

['Arafat] Yes. It was in 1977. If you remember, we were planning to go together to participate in the Geneva conference, but what happened [word indistinct] had confused everything.

[Snow] But now you've just been on Capitol Hill, amongst senators, congressmen, people who almost as much as for the Israelis have regarded you as an enemy, as an international terrorist. How was it suddenly being amongst these people this morning?

['Arafat] You see, you were looking to Yeltsin, to President Yeltsin some years ago, something with a different point of view. But now Yeltsin is one of the strongest allies for the American Administration, for the American people. And you have supported him many times in all his critical positions. The world is changing, and especially we are opening a new page in the Middle East.

[Snow] You told the World Bank yesterday that you weren't going to be Gorbachev'ed, that you weren't going to....

['Arafat, interrupting] I told them that we, I, hoped that all the promises for helping the Palestinian people to rebuild their infrastructure which had been destroyed, completely destroyed, we are in need of their support, of financial support, political support, but financial support, economical support, otherwise we can't survive. Either to have a Somalia, another Somalia in our area, or to have another Singapore.

[Snow] There are enemies in the region too. In Lebanon, Shaykh Fadlallah said in Friday prayers that what you were doing in the West Bank was like what the Israelis are doing in south Lebanon, that Palestinian police will be used as proxy Israeli security forces.

['Arafat] He is not familiar with what is going on. Either we are going to establish our independent state, we are going to establish this first our national authority, second to lead us to independent states and which will lead us to the confederation with Jordan.

[Snow] That's your hope?

['Arafat] Yes, no doubt. So he has to understand these realities and facts. We are not joking.

[Snow] Now there are....

['Arafat, interrupting] I would like to ask him. In Lebanon he has his army or not, he has his security forces or not. The other day the security forces had opened fire against the demonstrators. Why? Every country, every nation, every people have their own principles and organizations to facilitate their life.

[Snow] Are you worried about the relationship between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] inside the occupied territories and Hizballah beyond, in that they both look to Iran and they both look to fundamentalism?

['Arafat] They have this relation, but with our area, our field is something completely different. We have a democratic atmosphere, we are proud of our democracy, and we will contain, and we are sure that we will contain, all the opposition within our democracy. And I am extending my hand to them, and we had already started a dialogue with them, with all of them, and very soon within some days, we will have open talks where it had decided to be in Yemen.

[Snow] With Hamas?

['Arafat] With Hamas and with the other organizations.

[Snow] What will happen to you, Chairman? Are you going to go and live in Jericho, in Gaza?

['Arafat] Yes I think so.

[Snow] Which?

['Arafat] Both.

[Snow] Because you grew up in Gaza?

['Arafat] No. I grew up in Jerusalem. Then I traveled with my family to Egypt to continue my studies there.

[Snow] How soon would you hope to live in Gaza or Jericho yourself?

['Arafat] Who knows? I am a strong believer in God, but I am sure that my people will have the ability to survive and to live in peace.

[Snow] Do you worry that your own personal survival may be the price for peace?

['Arafat] When I attended this long march, I know that I have to one time. I will have offered my life and I would like to offer my life if this experience will succeed. Why not? Our life is not important beside the life of other people.

[Snow] Chairman 'Arafat, thank you very much indeed.

## Comments on Plans for State

*LD1409211393 Algiers EXTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by APS correspondent Nacer Mahal in Washington, date not given, broadcast in progress—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mahal] ...after the agreement on the declaration of principles.

['Arafat] What is important is the implementation of the declaration of principles, i.e., implementation of the withdrawal straight away from two main parts, which are the Gaza region and the Jericho region. At the same time, the setting up of the temporary authority of the Palestinian transitional government in the remaining territories will take place. At the same time, we were also very insistent on the Jerusalem issue. And for this reason, it was agreed that in the transitional period the inhabitants of Jerusalem will participate in the elections which will take place in nine months, whether in voting or putting forward candidates, as well as the protection of Arab places, institutions and the Islamic and Christian sacred places in the holy city. At the same time also the formation of the Palestinian national authority will take place, in implementation of the resolution of the Palestinian National Council of 1974, which is the establishment of the Palestinian national authority in any part of the Palestinian territory that is liberated or from which the Israelis have withdrawn.

[Mahal] There is opposition inside the Palestinian ranks and also in the surrounding environment. What is your reaction to this opposition?

['Arafat] First, we welcome all forms of opposition and criticism. Our platform is that of democracy, which accepts all views, even opposing ones. We are the (?post-gun battle] democracy, and thus I welcome every criticism and view, but in the end, democracy says that the majority respects the view of the minority and the minority implements the view of the majority.

[Mahal] When will the Palestinian state be established in accordance with the agreement arrangements?

['Arafat] From the beginning of the third year of this transitional period.

[Mahal] And when will you return to the Palestinian territories?

['Arafat] It is supposed to take place over the following few weeks, i.e., 10 to 12 weeks, within this time.

[Mahal] God willing. What was the content of the talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton?

['Arafat] Despite the fact that it was a short meeting, it was positive, fruitful, and stimulating. President Clinton affirmed that he will consolidate this Palestinian structure and will also consolidate the peace steps with all the American potential at all political, economic, social, etc., levels.

[Mahal] A final question. How do you conceive the unity of the Arab ranks at this difficult phase?

['Arafat] The Arab nation has been going through a very difficult phase since the Gulf crisis, during which numerous divisions and wounds took place. But I say that we must quickly join ranks and overlook our differences in order that our Arab nation can face up to the new world order, and so that it will not be at its own expense, but will participate in making the new international peace. In this respect, I send all regards and love to my brothers in Algeria—the leadership, government, and people—Algeria, whose sons say: We are with Palestine, whether it is the oppressor or the oppressed. Palestine is now making its peace. I remind my Algerian brothers of the first Evian talks, the second Evian talks, and the peace of the brave, which was concluded and led to the creation of the free, independent Algeria. God willing, this step, which will be followed by other steps and a long road, will lead to the establishment of our Palestinian state, which will join Jordan in a confederation in accordance with the voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples.

[Mahal] Thank you, Mr. President.

## Discusses Opposition

*PM1409111393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Sep 93 pp 1, 4*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Khayrallah Khayrallah in Tunis on 10 September]

[Text] [Khayrallah] What are your feelings after signing the document with Israel?

['Arafat] More responsibility falls on our shoulders, all of us. This is the first step toward the consolidation of our rights and the building of our independent Palestinian state along the way to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation by the free and voluntary choice of the two fraternal peoples and in accordance with our Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions in its successive sessions. What is important is not signing but implementation. Can we live up to the responsibility of shouldering these burdens? Gaza and the West Bank require a great deal at all economic, cultural, social, educational, and religious levels along with the preservation of holy Jerusalem and our institutions there, especially the Islamic and Christian holy places. That is at the top of our agenda in the next phase.... Gaza has reached the point of starvation, and the West Bank is in the most difficult economic situation. The occupation over the past periods has destroyed the Palestinian economic infrastructure. We need to rebuild the Palestinian economic infrastructure. The occupation destroyed all the Palestinian people's infrastructures and we need to rebuild that for the Palestinian people. There are numerous responsibilities and greater challenges. I also want to concentrate on our people's unity. I extend my hand, and I say this to everyone. I extend my hand for participation in sharing this coming responsibility as brothers and strugglers. The challenge is not to one individual, group, organization, or organizations. It is a

challenge to the Palestinian people as a whole and to the Arab nation of which the Palestinian people are an integral part.

[Khayrallah] What would you say to those who oppose the agreement?

['Arafat] I say to them: Come, let us build together and work together. For the first time in contemporary history there is a liberated Palestinian territory flying the Palestinian flag. I remind everyone of the resolution passed by our PNC in 1974 providing for the establishment of Palestinian national authority in any part of Palestinian territory from which Israel withdraws or which is liberated, even, as some would say, if it is al-Jaftalak or even, as others would say, if it is Jericho.... Jericho and Gaza first and the rest of the West Bank on the way. This Palestinian state will have holy Jerusalem as its capital. The Israeli officials have spoken of red lines. They are their red lines. As for us, we do not only have one red line. We have a Palestinian red line, an Arab red line, and Islamic red line, and a Christian red line as far as holy Jerusalem is concerned.

[Khayrallah] What do you say to those who have threatened you, such as Ahmad Jibril [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]?

['Arafat] Ahmad Jibril should remember how many times I saved him from death and from the verdict passed by his colleagues in the Front. Did I not save him? But we all take the path of martyrdom. My brother members of Fatah's Central Committee who have been martyred are in heaven. My brother leaders of the Palestinian revolution from all the organizations want us to find a foothold for our people in the Middle East on the political map of the new world order. Yes, we have found that foothold for our people on the political map after the third world war under the new world order.

[Khayrallah] What is your comment on the Arab reactions to the agreement?

['Arafat] Good....

[Khayrallah] Even the Syrian reaction?

['Arafat] Yes, and my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was warm, fraternal, and positive.

[Khayrallah] Do you believe that the Syrians are satisfied with the agreement?

['Arafat] The Syrians have some observations, and we appreciate these observations, but they also saw positive aspects in the agreement in addition to the negative aspects.

[Khayrallah] What do you think of King Husayn's position?

['Arafat] I address my thanks to King Husayn for what he said in his CNN interview (broadcast last Friday [10 September]), and I say to him we stand together side by side until we pray in Jerusalem, God willing.

[Khayrallah] Are you planning any steps in the near future to restore normal relations with Jordan?

['Arafat] First of all, relations with Jordan have not been shaken. The joint committees are now operating. I now thank Jordan because it is training our forces in police and security work. Matters are proceeding well in all directions. I am proud of my relations with my brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and I always endeavor to consolidate and strengthen these relations.

[Khayrallah] How do you assess the position taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states?

['Arafat] First of all I thank them for the statement issued by their foreign ministers. If anything, that statement reflects their great interest in what is going on and their support for what has happened. I say to the Gulf states' leaders that their Palestinian brothers expect much from them. We pin high hopes on them and trust them highly. I wish to refer here to what I heard from His Majesty Sultan Qabus to the effect that His Majesty King Fahd was following every step of the foreign ministers meeting and was behind the statement issued.

[Khayrallah] Has it been decided who will sign for the PLO in Washington?

['Arafat] Nothing has been decided yet.

[Khayrallah] Would you possibly be going?

['Arafat] Yes, that is one of several possibilities.

[Khayrallah] If you met with Yitzhaq Rabin or Shim'on Peres, what would you say to either of them?

['Arafat] I would say that this is a peace of the brave and that its implementation requires more courage.

[Khayrallah] What would you say to President Clinton if you met with him?

['Arafat] We would thank him for the major and silent part he played in bringing about this agreement and we would ask of him aid and assistance at all levels. We are sure that he will support the Palestinian newborn economically and politically.

[Khayrallah] At your meeting with Jimmy Carter in Sanaa (on 31 August) Carter said that there was something of Camp David in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and you supported that.

['Arafat] Yes we took some paragraphs from Camp David . The paragraph on the 1967 refugees was taken from Camp David. It provides for the formation of a Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli quadripartite committee for the repatriation within the next two years of the refugees since 1967.

[Khayrallah] There are those who are saying Gaza-Jericho First—and last. What do you say?

['Arafat] Those people have not understood the agreement. The agreement is a declaration of principles for Palestinian autonomy on the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, but Gaza and Jericho are the first step in the final solution. The occupation will end completely in Gaza and Jericho as a first step, while autonomy will apply in the rest of the West Bank. In other words, there will be a Palestinian national authority in Gaza and Jericho, and in the rest of the territory there will be a transitional Palestinian [authority].

[Khayrallah] There is some considerable clamor regarding the question of resettlement. What do you say to that?

['Arafat] Why? The issue of the refugees is on the final stage agenda. For the first time, this has been recognized. The Israelis acknowledge that. That issue is on the agenda and so is the issue of the settlements, and the issue of Jerusalem is on the top of that agenda. The refugee issue covers the 1948 refugees for the first time. Had we not reached agreement, resettlement would have become a fait accompli. The other logic, the logic of no solution, is the logic of resettlement. It means resettlement.

[Khayrallah] Finally, what has happened has canceled out the Washington negotiations. You have overturned the table and reshuffled the cards.

['Arafat] The declaration of principles we reached is the same declaration of principles that was on the negotiating table for 22 months. We took that time to reach the agreement. The United States always knew what was going on, and so did the Russian partner and some Arab brothers.

[Khayrallah] What Arab brothers?

['Arafat] Some Arab brothers.

### Defends Main Points of Agreement

*NC1509083093 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 9-15 Sep 93 p 5*

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Muna Anis in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Anis] They say that any linkage between the interim phase and a final settlement is left open to all sorts of interpretations, being vague in its formulation, rhetorical and devoid of any real substance.

['Arafat] On the contrary, implementing the Gaza-Jericho (agreement) with complete and immediate withdrawal following the signing of the agreement, is quite sufficient to show that we have succeeded in linking the transitional period with the permanent settlement in a practical way and on the ground.

[Anis] What about the controversial issues that have been postponed to the permanent status negotiations, especially questions concerning the rights of refugees, Jerusalem and Israeli settlements?

['Arafat] No, Jerusalem was not postponed, what was postponed is (an agreement on) its final position. But take for example the inhabitants of Jerusalem, our people in the city will participate in the election process, whether by voting or as candidates for election. The same goes for worshiping and holy places. Our other institutions in Jerusalem will also be subject to the same conditions. It is only the final position that has been postponed.

[Anis] Assuming that it was right to postpone the issue of Jerusalem, would it not have been possible to state in the text of the agreement that Jerusalem is a controversial question?

['Arafat] I reject the term a controversial question. It is a question of principle and not of controversy. A question of principle patriotically, nationally and religiously. For us Jerusalem is a red line whether on the Palestinian, Arab, Christian or Muslim levels.

[Anis] Yet this does not stop it from being a topic of great controversy for Israel.

['Arafat] The very fact that Israel accepted to put the city it considers its eternal capital on the agenda is a very important point that has to be acknowledged.

[Anis] What about the failure to mention UN Resolution 194 regarding the return of the refugees and their right to compensation?

['Arafat] It was approved by all the states participating in the multilateral talks in Canada and in Norway as an internationally recognized and effective resolution. But concerning the refugees there are two groups. One, the displaced (nazihin), those who had to flee their homes or were expelled since 1967, following the defeat. This group will return soon—the agreement includes their immediate return within the first two years. With the beginning of the third year the question of the refugees prior to that date and to whom Resolution 194 applies can be addressed. This question is postponed until the third year.

[Anis] What about the settlements?

['Arafat] Also settlements, the same thing applies. Three things: Jerusalem, the refugees and settlements.

['Anis] Those criticizing the agreement say that its content deepens further the linkage with Israel—it includes three linking mechanisms: A general joint Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee, an Israeli Palestinian Economic Cooperation Committee and a Continuing Security Committee—rather than attempting to delink, to the point that it may seem that the new Palestinian

entity will be heading towards a confederal integration with "Israel rather than the old notion of a confederal state with Jordan.

["Arafat] I am sorry to see that you understand it this way.

[Amos] Not me....

["Arafat] It does not matter. I am answering now. I am sorry that this is your understanding and that you ask a question like this. It means that you did not read the texts well enough. You have to understand that, by virtue of living under the Israeli occupation, we are completely linked to the Israelis. Everything depends on them, electricity, telephones, wheat, oil, water, security. There has to be an agreement on every single one of these things in order to be able to rid ourselves [of these restrictions] and organize them in a way that would be beneficial to the new state. Unfortunately some of our brothers objecting [to the agreement] forget that the whole of our land is occupied and that all our people live under occupation, under the Israeli economy, dealing in Israeli shekels and paying taxes to the Israeli occupation. We pay 36 different taxes. Let me give you one example: Palestinian workers have for the last 26 years been paying 20 percent of their salaries to the Israeli Labour Federation without getting one agorot in return for their money. Some of our brothers cannot understand such things. They judge us as if we were an independent state, like Egypt, Syria or Lebanon. We are a people living under occupation and it is a different concept altogether. By these agreements I want to liberate the Palestinian people from what is currently suffocating them. We, the Palestinian people, are not linked with agreements; no, we are strangled by military laws which claim to be organizing our life, but in reality kill us.

[Amos] Mentioning agreements and improving conditions [for the Palestinian people's many, especially here in Egypt, talk about an opportunity you wasted when you refused to participate in Camp David, and they say that the conditions of Camp David's self-rule agreement were better than those offered today's. How do you respond to this? Had it been made possible for us to go to Geneva, as was agreed, with a joint Arab delegation, things would have been different. But every event is governed by its own historical and objective conditions.

["Arafat] Had it been made possible for us to go to Geneva, as was agreed, with a joint Arab delegation, things would have been different. But every event is governed by its own historical and objective conditions.

[Amos] In a recent press conference in Cairo you responded to a question regarding the possibility of Palestinian police disciplining the Palestinians in the occupied territories....

["Arafat] Did I say anything regarding disciplining the Palestinians?

[Amos] No. I am saying that the question concerned that issue and your answer then was "The duty of the Palestinian police is to protect Palestinian Security."

["Arafat] Palestinian security."

[Amos] Yes. Palestinian security.

["Arafat] Palestinian security and not Israeli security.

[Amos] Yes I am quoting you only for you to elaborate the concept of Palestinian security in the light....

["Arafat] Palestinian security is what concerns....

[Amos] I want you to elaborate in the light of the one specific example of a group of, let us not say Hamas, but Fatah hawks, refusing to abide by the agreement and carrying out a military operation.

["Arafat] We will enter into dialogue with them. We are proud of our Palestinian democracy, and I find no blemish with it. It is one of the things we are proud of.

[Amos] A last question. Let me put to you something of what is being said about you in the Western media and ask for your response.

["Arafat] Do not judge me or hold me to account on the basis of what is being written in the press.

[Amos] I do not mean to....

["Arafat] Do not judge me by what is being written in the press, nevertheless ask what you want.

[Amos] Yesterday (last Sunday) Thomas Friedman said in THE NEW YORK TIMES something to the effect that the real challenge facing you is to descend from the height of your title as a president and your 100 quasi-embassies and the luxury and glitz of exile to....

["Arafat] First it is quite shameful to suggest that I have ever led a luxurious life, shame. This is very hostile. It is a hostile article. I have never lived a life of luxury or glitz. I am a freedom-fighter.

[Amos] I know this but I am asking this to hear your reply.

["Arafat] I am a freedom-fighter and here you see people around you who accompany me all the time. Ask them if I live better than they do. This is my answer to" them if I live better than they do, eat better or dress better than them.

[Amos] Of course it is a very hostile article that I am quoting, but it is important that you make your opinion known. Friedman continues to say that the real challenge before you is whether you will accept to live with strait-jacketed restrictions on autonomy, as a sort of a mayor, caring about local council duties from cleaning the city etc. to disciplining the Palestinians in your ranks when they attack Israel.

['Arafat] It is not for me to be a mayor or a head of a local council. The Palestinian people will have elected councils and elected local councillors in the villages. It has to be understood that everyone in the Palestinian administration has a specific job to do. It is not 'Arafat's job to be a head of a local council or a village mayor.

## 'Urayqat Interviewed on Peace Process, Future State

*PM1509103593 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Sep 93 p 7*

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy chief of the delegation to the peace talks, by Stephane Marchand; place and date not given]

[Text] [Marchand] Do the Palestinians accept the State of Israel as a fact?

['Urayqat] Of course.

[Marchand] Forever?

['Urayqat] Obviously. For 40 years, we thought we could destroy each other. We have just understood an essential point: Jews and Palestinians will both be the losers if the plan fails and will both win if it succeeds.

[Marchand] The PLO and Israel recognize each other. The Palestinians are moving toward autonomy. Do you believe that?

['Urayqat] It is a question of a historic and strategic change of direction. Israeli thinking has changed. All this will affect not only relations between Israelis and Palestinians. There will be a regional impact. But make no mistake what is historic is that the PLO and Israel are speaking to each other directly. The autonomy agreement itself is far too vague. It contains the ingredients for its own failure.

[Marchand] Does the agreement make you suspicious?

['Urayqat] I have read it in detail, and I believe the present euphoria is excessive. We have just advanced by one centimeter on a road 100 km long. This autonomy plan for territories starting with the Gaza Strip and Jericho contains some 60 articles. But none includes an intrinsic mechanism for its implementation. This text is thus only a program, a declaration of principles that lists the issues that will have to be negotiated. In my opinion, once the agreement has been signed here in Washington the real negotiations will begin. Each article is so complicated it will require a special committee to negotiate it, to put it into practice. The public underestimates the complexity of the details.

In the immediate future, the violations of human rights must stop on the occupied territories. People will not even take the trouble to study the philosophical meaning of the agreement if the prisons are not emptied, the road blocks not lifted, and the humiliations continue.

### Remodeling the Middle East

[Marchand] Is the United States still the last resort for all parties?

['Urayqat] No. There is an important European dimension. It has become essential today if the process that is beginning wants to have a chance of survival. For a long time, the Europeans were excluded from the peace process in the Near East because the Americans asked them to keep in the background. But the last agreement came over the Americans' heads. Europe must now exploit that breach and become a full partner in this process. I say this because Europe alone is capable of guaranteeing the implementation of the agreement on the ground during the interim period. It alone can exercise credible control over the Israelis' withdrawal and redeployment, the establishment of an international force, elections, and the territories' economic development.

[Marchand] Does the Palestinians' future depend on the progress of discussions between Israel and Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon?

['Urayqat] Of course. Especially the negotiations with Syria. The agreement contains an important regional aspect. What we want to initiate is an in-depth surgical operation to remodel the Middle East.

[Marchand] Will there be a Palestinian state one day?

['Urayqat] A Palestinian state on the West Bank, on the Gaza Strip, and in Jerusalem. It is inevitable.

[Marchand] On the Israeli side, as on the Palestinian side, there are powerful forces opposed to this agreement. Can they overturn this agreement?

['Urayqat] They say that the Hamas movement [Islamic Resistance Movement] (Palestinian fundamentalists—LE FIGARO editorial note) and other Palestinian factions will form an opposition. That is true but we will reduce this opposition within the new democratic framework. The people of the territories are gradually rallying around the agreement. No one will be able to halt the new dynamic as long as practical mechanisms are established. And the outside world must wake up. The United States is still in shock. Europe is doing nothing while it should embark immediately on practical work. If Washington, Paris, and London are content to watch on the touchlines there are real risks that the process will collapse.

[Marchand] Should we fear a return to the dark hours of the region?

['Urayqat] Unless we obtain the minimum elements necessary to put it into operation, autonomy will never see the light of day. Especially as the autonomy plan has a very precise schedule. Two months after signing Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho will begin. It should be completed four months later. Nine months after signing, Palestinian elections should take place and

the occupying troops will withdraw from the populated areas of the remainder of the West Bank. If a single one of these dates is missed, the whole plan will be in danger.

[Marchand] But what spark could really ignite the gunpowder?

['Urayqat] The Jewish settlers and their allies in the Israeli right wing. If they feel that the agreement is faltering they will come to attack our cities, burn down our houses, and kill our people. To create chaos. They are capable of it. The settlers obey only the logic of the certainty that God has given them the land of Judaea and Samaria forever. They are armed to the teeth and can commit real crimes. Remember the excesses of the French settlers in Algeria, and you will understand what I am afraid of. That is why we need far more substantial guarantees and a UN military presence. Europe should already be in the process of dealing with this.

## Bal'awi: PNC To Convene in Jerusalem in 'Near Future'

*TA1409125393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Sep 93 p A3*

["Exclusive" interview with Hakam Bal'awi, head of the PLO's internal security apparatus, by Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor in Washington on 13 September]

[Text] [Bekhor] When is the Palestine National Council [PNC] due to convene and where?

[Bal'awi] At a convenient opportunity. I expect it to convene in Jerusalem. We are living in a new era, new times, and we shall reach the final stage before the next two years are over. Now there is peace between us, and this will offer the PNC an opportunity to convene soon.

[Bekhor] Do you believe that the PNC will convene in Jerusalem? Does Israel know of this intention?

[Bal'awi] We did not discuss it with the Israelis. However, I regard Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. This is a Palestinian decision. The location is Palestinian, and it does not concern the Israelis. It is only natural for the PNC to reconvene in Jerusalem. After all, its first convention was held there. What is needed now is a new PNC that will imbue our political, economic, and social lives with new content.

[Bekhor] Will the convention in Jerusalem take place in the next few weeks, or will it take several months?

[Bal'awi] I am very optimistic. It will be in the near future.

[Bekhor] Do you think that the majority of the PNC supports the recognition of Israel, the interim arrangements, and the changes in the Palestinian National Covenant?

[Bal'awi] Yes. If Fatah approved it, then there is a majority in the PNC. Fatah controls the PNC, and, as you know, Fatah has reached a historic decision to approve the decisions. This will have an immediate impact on all the other Palestinian institutions.

[Bekhor] How legal are 'Arafat's steps without the PNC's endorsement?

[Bal'awi] Everything 'Arafat signed and declared today was in accordance with PNC decisions. 'Arafat does not do anything without the approval of the PLO's institutions.

[Bekhor] There were several terrorist attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Israel on 12 September. We feel that although we signed an agreement with you today, we will have to continue to fight Hamas. What can be done about this?

[Bal'awi] I respect our people's sense of honor and democracy. Whether it is Hamas or any other Palestinian force, we shall act like a democracy which has a political opposition. In a democracy, the minority must respect the will of the majority. This will also be the case with us.

[Bekhor] Do you condemn the Hamas attacks?

[Bal'awi] I do not condemn them. No, I do not. Why should I condemn them? Today is Monday, not Sunday. Do not ask me about the past.

[Bekhor] What about the opposition of left-wing Palestinian organizations, such as those led by Habash and Hawatimah?

[Bal'awi] The history we are making now is greater than any opposition. Habash and Hawatimah can always join us, and I believe they will do so in the future.

[Bekhor] How did you feel today at the ceremony?

[Bal'awi] I got very emotional. Words cannot express the kind of excitement one feels on such a day. The Palestinian people have achieved a tremendous accomplishment, and we hope to establish a comprehensive and everlasting peace between our two peoples and between two neighboring national entities that together could lay the foundations for a new Middle East culture.

[Bekhor] Do you intend to move to the territories soon? After all, the Palestinians will need some kind of interior minister?

[Bal'awi] I will not come to visit. I will be returning to my country for good. I intend to permanently return, along with our leadership. This will depend on the circumstances and time.

[Bekhor] You are considered very close to 'Arafat. How would you describe his feelings today?

[Bal'awi] I see him on a daily basis. I know that for him it was a great day. However, it was also a difficult day.

'Arafat is a brave man, and if he has reached an ultimate decision to make peace, he will not spare time and effort to achieve it.

### Al-Sa'ih Criticizes Agreement With Israel

*PM1409162993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 93 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Signing of Agreement Was Illegal; PNC Meeting Is Necessary"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, who has resigned, yesterday called for a meeting of the Palestinian leaderships, including that of the Islamic [Resistance] Movement Hamas, to discuss what happens after the Gaza-Jericho agreement with a view to enabling the Palestinian people to express their views and freely determine their own fate. He denied contacting the Arab states on the question of convening a PNC session but added that he was ready for such a call if an Arab state could be found to host a PNC session, although, in his view, such a meeting was unlikely.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington was illegal because the Executive Committee has no right to cede even a single inch of Palestinian territory and has no right to amend the PLO Covenant.

He added that the Covenant cannot be amended unless a PNC session is held and two-thirds of the members vote in favor of such a move. He emphasized that it is now very important for the PNC to meet in view of the current circumstances, but that would require many things, such as providing security and accommodating the 500-plus PNC members. That, I believe, would be difficult in the present circumstances, al-Sa'ih said.

He said that the city of Jerusalem, the holy city that is of special importance to the Arabs and Muslims, must not be forfeited. He added that the issue of Jerusalem should should be discussed at an early stage and that Jerusalem should be the capital of the Palestinian state.

### Jibril Says 'Arafat To Pay for 'High Treason'

*JN1409130693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1022 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, by the "first channel of French television;" place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] You oppose the agreement and seek the physical liquidation of 'Arafat. Do you really want to [words indistinct] Yasir 'Arafat by you and your friends?

[Jibril] Today we saw 'Arafat and Rabin sign two agreements. The first on recognition and the second on limited administrative rule in Gaza and Jericho. We would like to say that this agreement is not binding to the Palestinian people. This agreement will mean nothing because the Palestinian people reject it. 'Arafat, who signed it, does not represent the Palestinian people because he lost his revolutionary legitimacy when all the Palestinian factions left the PLO. He also lost his democratic legitimacy, because the 7 million Palestinians in the territories and elsewhere were not consulted about such agreements nor was their opinion taken into consideration. We ask: Why is this world calling for democracy regarding simple, unimportant matters while the Palestinian people are deprived of expressing their opinion vis-a-vis an issue pertaining to their past, present, and future? Why are the Palestinian people deprived of the opportunity to express their opinion about this agreement? Therefore, we say that 'Arafat....

[Reporter, interrupting] Back to the first question, what do you mean when you say that Yasir 'Arafat will have the same fate as [late Egyptian President] Anwar al-Sadat?

[Jibril] I mean that Yasir 'Arafat has committed high treason by recognizing Israel. We ask 'Arafat and Rabin: Which borders did 'Arafat recognize? 'Arafat recognized the Zionist entity, which is occupying the land of Palestine and other Arab territories, without getting the minimum that is required for the Palestinian people and their aspirations. Yasir 'Arafat has departed from the Palestinian unanimity by acting single-handedly and by dealing a blow to these people's aspirations. Therefore, we say and repeat that 'Arafat will personally pay the price of this deed.

[Reporter] Mr. Ahmad Jibril: Do you really think that Yasir 'Arafat has become an American spy, as the demonstrators said in Damascus?

[Jibril] In our opinion, he became worse than an American spy; he became the chief of a Third World police station under Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. He will be a head of a police station in Gaza and Jericho. I am not leveling false accusations against him. In his letter to Rabin, he said: I will crush those opposing this agreement. The meaning of the word "crush" is absolutely clear. It means 'Arafat agreed to act like General Petain in France.

### DFLP, PFLP Say Agreement Not Binding

*JN1409165093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Damascus, 14 Sep (SANA)—The unified leadership of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has criticized the Israeli- Palestinian agreement signed in Washington yesterday.

In a statement issued here last night, the leadership said the signatories emptied the contents from the PLO

before they got Israel's recognition of a weak and fragile organization that deviates from the national consensus.

In its statement, the leadership said the agreement signed by a Palestinian party is not binding to the PLO and the Palestinian people. The unified leadership expressed its concern for the fate of the occupied Palestinian territories because, according to the agreement, they are subject to future negotiations to decide their fate and will remain subject to the mood of Israeli Governments that insist on keeping Jerusalem.

The statement emphasized that the Palestinian Arab people will continue their struggle and resistance of the occupation until they realize their objectives of liberation and until they attain their legitimate national rights and have their independent state.

### Arab Liberation Front Rejects PLO-Israel Agreement

*JN1409172693 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Nicosia, Sep 14. INA—The Arab Liberation Front voiced total rejection of the self-rule agreement which was signed in Washington on Monday [13 September] between Israel and the PLO.

The front called upon the Palestinian Arab people to unify the rank and commit to the option of legitimate struggle as a means for foiling this agreement.

In a communique circulated in the occupied territories, the front said that this agreement posed major gravity on future of the Palestinian question and historic and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to the land and homeland and right of the coming generations to struggle for realizing the strategic goal in the liberation.

The communique said that the settlement process was the culmination of the American-Zionist aggression on the Arab nation. Affirming that the involvement in the face-to-face negotiations with Israel under censorship and mandate of the United States means a surrender to date of the de facto and giving in conditions of the enemy and preparedness to render demeaning concessions to the enemy.

"We reject this agreement and its present and future outcomes and also the recognition by Israel. And we reckon these matters as a relinquishment of historical rights of the Palestinian people to liberating the national soil and restoring the homeland," the communique said.

It stressed that the goal of the Palestinian revolution was to liberate Palestine and for this historical goal the Palestinian people rendered dear sacrifices.

The self-rule agreement legitimized the Israeli usurpation of the Arab land and surrendered to political and economic conditions of Israel against limited atonomy. The communique said.

It called upon sons of the Arab nation and its patriotic and national forces to cohere and defend the national destiny and existence.

### Commentary Says National Rights To Prevail

*JN1409111893 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, in the midst of the intense Palestinian-Israeli political engagement and in order to have the sun of freedom rise on the horizon of the Palestinian land, successive developments affirm that the hour of reckoning in favor of the regaining of the Palestinian national rights has come and that Palestinian rights and truth will inevitably prevail on the Palestinian land. This is because the enemy has realized that it has no alternative but to admit that its dreams of expansion and its ideological tenets, which no longer have any future in the entire region, have crumbled. In other words, the enemy has reluctantly realized that it cannot but go back on its stands and reassume its normal size, considering all the crises and dilemmas it experiences, which exacerbate the situation and become more complicated daily.

The enemy's meek admission of the need to restore the usurped Palestinian rights to the Palestinian people and to recognize their effective political presence, according to all yardsticks, is a real sign of its defeat in the face of the united Palestinian will under the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative. The PLO has courageously and fiercely fought and struggled to impose a Palestinian peace on the land of Palestine on the basis of forcing the enemy to acknowledge the need to establish Palestine, the homeland, the sovereignty, the constitutional institutions, and the Palestinian national authority on the land of Palestine.

It goes without saying that this would not have been attained had it not been for the steadfastness and firmness of the Palestinian people in the face of all the attempts to dispose of or marginalize their militant achievements.

Our Palestinian people have been and continue to be in control of their national independent decisionmaking. They have fought and continue to fight in accordance with this decisionmaking and are setting their course toward courageous peace also with this decisionmaking on an equal footing and without any impairment of their legitimate rights in Palestine.

With such confidence in the future, we carve the way for peace. With our independent decisionmaking and staunch will, we will raise the banner of Palestine on Palestinian land.

## Egypt

### Mubarak Greets King Husayn on Agenda Signing

*NC1409151993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1504 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned King Husayn of Jordan this afternoon to congratulate him on the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement.

President Mubarak voiced the hope that the agreement would help to achieve a just and comprehensive regional peace.

### Mubarak Phones Saudi King, Reviews Peace Efforts

*NC1409203893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, tonight. The two leaders reviewed recent developments in the Middle East as well as the search to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

### 'Arafat, Clinton Faulted for Not Crediting Cairo

*NC1509063793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] 14 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM's chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' reproaches Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, in an editorial entitled "And Everyone Forgot Egypt" in tomorrow's edition of AL-AHRAM.

'Arafat and 'Abbas, Nafi' writes, intentionally omitted reference to the Egyptian role in the peace process in the two speeches they delivered at the ceremony in Washington to sign the Palestinian- Israeli agreement. Nafi' also reproaches the United States and U.S. President Clinton for the same reason.

In his editorial, Nafi' says: Everyone thanked the United States, the Soviet Union, Norway, and the Israeli prime minister and hailed their contributions to the peacemaking process. But they forgot Egypt, which chipped at the rocks with its bare hands and sacrificed martyrs until it chiseled out a path to peace for those who come afterward. Unfortunately, everyone forgot Egypt. They forgot that martyr of peace, late President al-Sadat. They forgot President Husni Mubarak, who works tirelessly to achieve just peace for the Palestinians and all the region's peoples.

Nafi' adds that Egypt asks no one for thanks or tribute. Thanks and gratitude will not elevate Egypt's status or enhance its prestige. I only reproach those who, in the excitement of the ceremony, forgot to pay due tribute, just for the record, to the country that played a role in making the ceremony possible, Nafi' writes.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor asks rhetorically if the White House could have hosted a celebration to which 'Arafat was invited without Egypt and President Mubarak's long years of effort to narrow the differences and promote the start and resumption of a U.S.- Palestinian dialogue.

Nafi' says that President Clinton, who forgot to mention Egypt's role in his speech at the White House, was the first to learn of Egypt and Mubarak's efforts in working with the Israelis and Palestinians to set the stage for the mutual recognition and the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Nafi' adds that the Palestinian president was the first to know about Egypt and Mubarak's efforts, particularly in the past few months in contacts with the Israeli side, to enlarge the scope of the agreement to include Jericho as well as Gaza, a measure signaling that the agreement would extend to the West Bank and not remain confined to Gaza. Egypt did this and much more, Nafi' points out.

AL-AHRAM's chief editor discusses the details of a visit by Dr. Mustafa Khalil, as President Mubarak's envoy [to Israel], to hand a message from President Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Egypt raised the idea of recognizing the PLO and helping it financially. Israeli Foreign Minister Peres commented by saying: "Is Egypt asking us to recognize the PLO?" Khalil said: "Certainly" and explained Egypt's views and reasons.

Nafi' states: Recently, several Palestinians mentioned that the Gaza-Jericho agreement germinated during a meeting between Mubarak and Rabin in Ismailia a few months ago. The Palestinians and the entire Arab World know that without Egypt and without Mubarak, the mutual recognition and the autonomy agreement would not have been achieved.

Nafi' adds: I don't want to spoil the fun or dampen the Palestinians' festive mood with remarks that some may see as insignificant. I only wonder about Egypt's fate, its bearing so many burdens and responsibilities as it goes through so many sacrifices to end, almost invariably, with hardly any thanks or praise.

Nafi' concludes by saying: Hopefully, President 'Arafat will not imagine that his acceptance at the White House on 13 September will mean he can do without Egypt's role and efforts. Hopefully, all those who made speeches, especially President Clinton, will sense the injustice done when credit is denied where credit is due.

### U.S. Seen 'Shaken' by PLO-Israeli Agreement

*NC1409115993 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Sep 93 p 5*

["And We Meet" column by 'Abd-al-Karim Salim: "'Arafat Now at Head of the Line"]

[Text] Israel has recognized the PLO and its role as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In return, the PLO has recognized Israel, its existence, and that it has the right to enjoy security in the Middle East region.

This is what has happened, and it is still all very new to us. It is the beginning of real peace coming to the region. The Israeli State will exist beside the State of Palestine, and everything will take place in stages. Like everything that lives, that survives on the ground or in the water: It starts as an embryo, it is born, and goes through childhood, youth, manhood, until the end.

To show the good intentions behind the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, Palestinian autonomy will be established in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The Palestinians will govern themselves for the first time in contemporary history. This forms part of the principles that have been decided upon and will be implemented in stages.

Events are an unprecedented development after war, disputes, and conflict. Thousands of victims died, thousands were injured, and blood was shed. Funds sufficient to raise the standard of living of the region's peoples to an excellent level were squandered.

The most dangerous thing that happened between Israel and the PLO was the accumulation of mental hostility between the two peoples. The Israelis practiced anything and everything against the Palestinian people. But they got no comfort or stability, because Palestinian hostility toward them continued.

Throughout the past 30 years, Israel has considered the PLO a dangerous terrorist organization.

The PLO considered Israel an illegitimate organization that stole its land and everything it had.

'Arafat's move—mutual recognition with Israel and declaring the principles of an agreement on autonomy—came at the right time—it was not at all wrong—for several reasons:

The fragmentation of the Arabs: They are not united on a single word, and have different ideas; they do not form any pressure group. This is a result of the second Gulf war, when Iraq engulfed Kuwait one sad day.

The peace talks in Washington are not proceeding along the right course. The Palestinians feel the United States is being stubborn and is applying greater pressure on them than on the Israeli negotiators.

This is why 'Arafat hastened his agreement with Israel and placed himself at the forefront by taking this progressive and advanced step. After long marching behind the Arab leaders with all their differences and mistakes, he is now at the head of the line. Some Arab leaders are following behind.

Events represent something new, exceeding what happened between Israel and Egypt, because they form an initiative stemming from the two original parties to the dispute—an initiative from Israel and an initiative from the Palestinians—with no third party involved.

This is why the United States was shaken, and political decisionmakers there went through an embarrassing and worrying stage when they learned about the expected agreement between Israel and the PLO, since what happened was kept secret from its numerous organs, starting with its powerful intelligence organization.

But the United States regained its breath very quickly and accepted the agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians. It will try to continue this historic step with an official ceremony in Washington in its capacity, along with Russia, as a cosponsor of the peace conference.

## 'Positive Factors' in PLO-Israel Accord Noted

*NC1409150093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban]

[Text] The world views the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington yesterday as a historic event and a positive turning point, not only for the Palestinians and Israelis, but for the Middle East and the world. The signing is the fruit of indefatigable efforts by several parties, including those directly concerned with the issue and those that positively and constructively contributed to narrowing the gap between the two sides. It is also the outcome of the Palestinian people's struggle, perseverance, and demand for their rights.

The most positive factors in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement are the following:

1. The agreement and the mutual recognition occurred after the two sides long refused to meet or negotiate. Israel has recognized for the first time that there is a Palestinian people, a Palestinian land, and national rights on this land. The recognition is irreversible. Consequently, the old Israeli excuse of a land without a people for a people without a land has ended.

2. The world supported the agreement. This was represented by the presence of 3,000 guests at the signing ceremony in Washington. Delegations from 120 states attending the 90th International Parliamentary Conference in Canberra have praised the agreement as a first step toward a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.

3. There is overwhelming Palestinian support for the agreement, especially in the occupied territory. The masses there have rallied in support of the agreement, expressing their joy by shouting slogans and carrying Palestinian flags and pictures of Palestinian leader 'Arafat. Salah-al-Din Street in Jerusalem witnessed emotional and spontaneous demonstrations in what analysts have described as a public plebiscite in support of the Palestinian leadership.

4. Israel's recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people paves the way for a quick understanding and a final solution of the issue. It also opens the way to cooperation between the two sides and reaping its fruit, not only by the two peoples, but also by all the peoples of the region. This has also led to the beginning of a new relationship between the PLO and the United States, which has decided to resume contacts with the PLO. This will reflect positively on the Palestinian issue and people.

5. There is great European support for the agreement. The EC states have expressed readiness to extend substantial economic aid, which the peace march needs. They have expressed a desire to invite Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin to come to Europe to discuss details. Germany has also expressed readiness to offer 1 billion German marks and has invited 'Arafat to come to Brussels to discuss the possibility of European economic aid to the PLO.

These are some of the positive factors the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has achieved, especially for the Palestinian people. At the same time, this agreement is in the interest of the Israelis, who will undoubtedly gain peace and security.

The Palestinian people are united. They feel confident they can build the social and economic bases for this Palestinian national authority in Palestine. They will build an infrastructure for agriculture and industry and will embark on projects that will secure their daily lives. The Palestinian experts in the diaspora must return to build the nucleus of the Palestinian state on sound democratic bases.

### Al-Baz: Rabin Visit to Morocco 'Not' Significant

*NC1409183993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has made a statement to our correspondent. He said the visit of the Israeli prime minister and the Israeli foreign minister to Morocco is not an important step on the road to peace because contacts between the two countries' officials have been taking place in one way or another. He said the important thing is that the peace process should move with the parties directly involved in the peace process. These other steps have peripheral effects but are not major milestones on the road to peace.

Al-Baz said that in the coming phase we will focus on the Syrian- Israeli track. He said that Israel must realize that movement on the Syrian track is important, that full withdrawal from Syrian territory is the way to achieve peace, and that the Syrian people may follow Egypt's model of peace with Israel.

Al-Baz said Israel must clearly state its commitment to fully withdraw from the Syrian heights. In return for this withdrawal, Syria will terminate the state of war and establish relations of peace with Israel.

### Death Sentences in al-Shawqiyun Case Approved

*NC1409124693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—The sentences issued by the Higher Military Court on 21 August in the case of the al-Shawqiyun Group were approved today. The case involved 32 defendants, four of them at large.

A military judiciary source has stated that the convicts will be informed and given 15 days to appeal.

The Higher Military Court had issued death sentences on four defendants, one of them at large.

### Military Court Sentences Two to Die in Zinhum Case

*NC1509103493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1021 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today handed down the death sentence against two defendants in the Zinhum case and life with hard labor for four others. The court acquitted two defendants.

### Police Deny Storming of al-Rahmah Mosque in Asyut

*NC1409135393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Asyut, 14 Sep (MENA)—Major General Mahmud 'Antar, assistant interior minister and Asyut's security director, has denied a report by an Arab news agency today claiming that the Egyptian security forces yesterday stormed the city's al-Rahmah Mosque to prevent rioters from protesting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Maj. Gen. 'Antar said: The security forces arrested a few wanted individuals while worshippers were leaving the mosque. He added that no clashes took place involving citizens or the wanted individuals and there were no injuries.

'Antar said the security forces are carrying out their normal daily task of enforcing the law in the governorate.

### Police Shoot 'Islamic Militant' During Search

*NC1509081593 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, Sept 14 (AFP)—Police on Tuesday shot dead a suspected Islamic militant during search operations in the al-Khankah district north of here, police said.

Muhammad Bayyumi Hasan, 35, was killed when he tried to flee but police said they arrested 20 other suspected Muslim militants.

Anti-riot police took part in the operation aimed at arresting suspects who opened fire Sunday on two policemen in the al-Khankah area. The officers were not hurt.

Muslim fundamentalists launched a violent campaign to overthrow the secular government of President Husni Mubarak in March 1992. A total of 195 people, including 71 militants and 52 policemen, have since been killed in extremist attacks and clashes between Islamists and security forces.

Police have meanwhile arrested 55 Islamic militants in raids since Sunday in Asyut, a fundamentalist stronghold in south Egypt, and al-Hawamidiyah south of Cairo.

## Morocco

### Rabin, Peres Visit Rabat, Meet King Hassan

#### Leaders Arrive 14 Sep

*LD1409123293 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived this morning in Rabat on a visit to Morocco. They were welcomed at Rabat-Sale Airport by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri, and others.

#### Rabin Hails Hassan's Peace Efforts

*LD1409124993 Rabat MAP in English 1222 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 14 (MAP)—Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres arrived Tuesday [14 September] here from Washington in the morrow of the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli accord on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. No details were given on the duration of their stay in Morocco.

In an arrival statement, Rabin said that he and Peres came to Morocco to pay tribute to King Hassan II and to the Moroccan people for their action in favor of peace in the Mideast. The Arab world, Israel and the world should be grateful to King Hassan II for his tireless efforts and endeavors, Rabin said adding that the sovereign was the pioneer of the historic event that took place yesterday in Washington. Recalling his visit to Morocco in 1976 after that of Moshe Dayan, Rabin said it was then that the first step toward peace with Egypt was made. After the PLO-Israeli mutual recognition, the Israeli premier said he came to Morocco to listen to the sovereign's pieces of advice that are very important for Israel in order to bring closer the Arab world and the Jewish state.

Shim'on Peres, then prime minister, visited Morocco in 1986 and held talks with King Hassan II in Ifrane, Middle Atlas. Other Israeli officials visited Morocco namely the Interior Minister Arye Der'i in July 1992 and the Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who attended the conference on environment in the Mediterranean held in Casablanca last May.

King Hassan II has always played a key role in the search of a settlement to the Israeli-Arab conflict. It was in Morocco that the major Arab summits were held such as the 1982 Fes summit during which the Fes plan for peace in the Mideast was adopted. King Hassan II is the chairman of the al-Quds [Jerusalem] committee which convenes periodically to address problems related to the holy city.

The two Israeli officials were greeted upon arrival in Rabat by Moroccan Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Minister of State in Charge of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali and Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri and other figures.

#### King Receives Rabin, Peres

*LD1409162793 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Today, at the royal palace in Skhirat, His Majesty King Hassan II—may God make him victorious—surrounded by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Moulay Rachid, received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who was accompanied by the foreign affairs minister, Shim'on Peres.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, Abdellatif Filali, his majesty's adviser Ahmed Reda Buedira, and Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri.

#### Diplomatic Ties Said in 'Near Future'

*TA1409201393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Israel and Morocco will establish diplomatic ties in the near future. An understanding to this effect was reached in the talks Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres held in Morocco with King Hassan.

Our corresponent Shlomo Raz reports that the king sent a special blessing to the Israeli people on the occasion of Rosh Hashana.

The prime minister, foreign minister, and their entourage visited the synagogue in the Jewish quarter of Casablanca. They were hosted by the local rabbi and members of the Jewish community which numbers 4,000 people. They also visited the new mosque in the city, which is one of the largest in the world.

The prime minister and the foreign minister are at this time holding a news conference at Morocco's official guest house. They are due back in Israel later tonight.

### Rabin, Peres Hold News Conference

*LD1509003893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2120 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Report by an unidentified announcer on a news conference by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Rabat on 14 September; Peres speaks in French, with passage-by-passage translation into English, and remarks are processed from French; Rabin speaks in English; monitored in progress—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Various information media correspondents were present, and it was heavily covered.

During this conference, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shi'mon Peres affirmed their gratitude and appreciation for the important role King Hassan II had played to bring the Israeli Government and the PLO closer. They also affirmed that their presence in Morocco on the day following the signing of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho first reflected the special appreciation the Israeli officials have for Morocco and for His Majesty King Hassan II, who has always made great efforts to understand the problems of the Palestinians with the Israelis and to strive toward resolving them by constant endeavor toward establishing a permanent peace in the area.

Peres said that his majesty had taken great interest in the history of the Arab people and its relationship with the history of the Jewish people. He also affirmed that Israel and the PLO had always listened to the advice of his majesty the king, which had always been balanced with wisdom, advice, and foresight.

[Peres] "First of all, we would like to thank His Majesty King Hassan II for playing an extremely important role in the relations between Jews and Arabs. Generally and historically, there is a lot of appreciation at home in the Jewish world for the king and his father. At the same time, we would like to thank the king for his role in the rapprochement between the Palestinians and us, and between the PLO and us. We consider the invitation here by the king as a declaration of support for the agreement that was signed in Washington yesterday. It was a very warm, friendly, and important welcome and, allow me to say, historic. On behalf of Prime Minister Rabin and myself, I express my deep appreciation for this exceptional event. Thank you."

[Rabin] "I sensed then—and we followed with great interest since then—the main and the major efforts that were made by Morocco under the leadership of his majesty to bring closer the Arab countries, the Palestinians, to understand the problems that Israel was, is facing, and to make it clear to us the problems that still exist."

[Peres] "Perhaps there must be a certain gradual approach in this development. Today was a dramatic and historic beginning. I hope that it is only a beginning, and there is a great future for us. Do you know that it is the first time that Arabs, like us, realize that a reconciliation and a political rapprochement is not sufficient and that economic cooperation must be built in the Middle East. There must be a common market, or something like the common market, because one must serve the people in the end—economically and socially, and not politically only."

[Rabin] "First, we signed an agreement with Mr. 'Arafat as the chairman of the PLO. I made it clear, and I stress it. Second, the agreement is with the PLO. All other names, titles, are irrelevant to the letters and to the agreements. Second, [as heard] King Hassan II said that he decided to provide the plane to bring 'Arafat to Washington. He wanted to facilitate the possibility of 'Arafat going over there. I believe he had a problem. His other problem looks to be ... [changes thought] belong to Iraq or something of this kind. That could have created problems for the plane to arrive there."

"I do not see any reason why or by any right that we will ask the king why he gave 'Arafat the plane. For me it was clear he wanted to assist, to help materialize what happened in Washington. And if 'Arafat didn't have any other planes, he offered him his plane. I look at it as a technical assistance for a very great idea.

"The second question: I don't know and I didn't ask what kind of advice his majesty gave to 'Arafat. I don't believe it's our problem. I believe he gave him good advice, as when we discussed the problem from our point of view. We discussed in detail what does it means to implement the agreement of tomorrow. How many difficulties still lie ahead? How many obstacles will have to be overcome to make it work in terms of security among the Palestinians themselves, between the Palestinians and Israelis in the territories and outside. But, above all, you know the problem in Gaza and the Gaza strip. And, as you know, the agreement starts first with Gaza and Jericho. Jericho is a very small, minor issue. But three quarters of a million Palestinians who live in Gaza, to tackle their social, economic problem is a huge, huge mission without outside assistance to make it possible. Without outside assistance, the chances that the agreement will achieve its goals will be reduced.

"There are a lot of problems of which people are not aware. It's not only just political exchange. It's something that has to be translated on the ground to the lives of three quarters of a million Palestinians in relation to problems of security of Israel.

"People are not aware what the budget is today of the civil administration of the military government of

Israel—of the military government in the territories—to maintain the level of education, health services, agriculture, development of infrastructure. The development today of the civil administration is almost 400 million dollars. Well, from tomorrow this money will be found. For a while we are committed to maintain this level of budget to the end of 1993. But when the money will come to make it possible to the political agreement to succeed? [as heard]

Therefore, there are many problems. Foreign Minister [Peres] worked with the European Community, with the European countries, with the Scandinavians, with others to find the money. Without money ... [changes thought] to assist the Palestinians, not Israel. The whole issue can suffer. We cannot achieve what we want if this will not be done.

"And there is another problem: why the rich, oil-producing Arab countries will not contribute to the Palestinians in the territories on the basis of projects, projects to help the Palestinians in the territories. Don't you think the time is ripe that the rich Arab countries—those who produce oil—take part in helping the Palestinians in the territories under this agreement?

What's the problem of 300, 400 million dollars to the whole Gulf, Arabian peninsula countries? It can be a boost, tremendous boost, to the political success of the solution. So far, I am not aware about their readiness to contribute.

[Peres] "One has to add that finally both sides—the PLO and Israel—have accepted the advice of the king, and it is for this reason that we have had an agreement."

[Rabin] "At this stage, I don't believe it will be advisable to speak about details of the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First. There are a lot of problems. I would not refer but to the general problems, the way that I refer to in my answering the former question. Therefore, leaving it at this stage depends on the developments—how it will work, how we will reach an understanding, and there are a lot of problems, a lot of issues. Eighty percent of the problems have been left unsolved yet.

"Allow me to end a day of visit, a very impressive visit, again with thanks to the king and, since tomorrow is the eve of the Jewish New Year, allow me to say to all of you, Jews and non-Jews: Sana tuva. And let's hope that the next year will be the year of a turning of events in the Middle East from war, violence, and terror towards peace, tranquillity, and economic progress. Thank you very much."

## Rabin, Peres Depart Rabat

*LD1509000693 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres left Rabat this evening at 2150 GMT after a short visit to Morocco during which they were received by His Majesty King Hassan II. The two Israeli officials and the delegation accompanying them were seen off at Rabat-Sale airport by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lambrani; Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui; Abdellatif Filali, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; (Andre Azoulay), adviser to his majesty in charge of economic and financial affairs; Driss Basri, minister of interior and information; and several personalities.

## Rabin Denies Visit Aimed at Establishing Ties

*TA1409121693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Report by Shlomo Raz from Mohammedia—live]

[Text] The flight to Morocco was kept a deep secret until yesterday's White House signing ceremony, when it started to leak out that the prime minister's trip to the United States would conclude with a surprise stopover. It seems the visit was finalized two or three days ago. The main sponsor was Knesset Member [MK] Rafi 'Edri, who has excellent, wide-ranging ties in Morocco. Earlier, there was a possibility that Shim'on Peres would fly to Morocco after his visit to France last week, but as a result of the speed at which events developed, it was decided that Prime Minister Rabin would be the one to pay an official visit to Morocco—this time not in fancy dress and without a wig [reference to Rabin having visited Morocco incognito in October 1976 as then prime minister of Israel]. During the flight, after spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami announced that we were flying to Morocco, we held a short interview with Prime Minister Rabin:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I am very happy to say that thanks to MK Rafi 'Edri's activities, this visit was agreed on even before we left Israel. Rafi 'Edri has been there a couple of days. On one hand, I believe it is a symbolic act, a show of thanks and appreciation to the king for advancing peace and bringing about understanding between the Arab states and Arab peoples and Israel, and on the other, it underlines the great opportunities for a breakthrough in relations with other Arab states.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, you are usually very closed and businesslike, not an emotional person. Still, how did you feel at yesterday's ceremony? Was it an uplifting moment, a historic moment, or a difficult time for you?

[Rabin] I am sure that the event is important. On the other hand, it is obvious that I did not feel at ease, but I prefer not to talk about that.

[Raz] Is the trip to Morocco aimed at establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, or is it merely a gesture of thanks?

[Rabin] It is not aimed at establishing diplomatic relations with Morocco, but the very fact that we are coming to Rabat directly from Washington and holding a meeting with the king might be another step forward in forming relations. [end recording]

Let us now hear the interview we had with Shim'on Peres on the same flight:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Mr. Peres, we would like a short statement. Morocco is your territory.

[Peres] Why? It is not only my business but that of all of us. In fact, the Moroccans have been inviting us to visit since Friday. At first, they suggested that I come myself directly from France. I preferred that we all come from the United States. I think it is a very important event. I think the problem now facing Israel is to exploit the enormous success we are having, not to rest on our laurels, but to continue to pave roads.

[Raz] When do you think open diplomatic relations will be formed with Morocco?

[Peres] I do not want to commit myself to a date, but I believe that if we operate properly, it could take place in the not too distant future.

[Raz] Are there other states in the works?

[Peres] There are 24 Arab states, all lining up. [end recording]

### Rabin, Peres Cancel Visit to Tunisia

*TA1409203293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1935 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik has in the last few minutes sent us a report from Rabat, the capital of Morocco, saying that the political level had contemplated the possibility of continuing from Morocco to a similar visit in Tunisia. However, the plan was ultimately put off, among other reasons, because of the impending eve of the Rosh Hashana holiday.

Our correspondent goes on to report that in talks held yesterday by Israel and the United States it was decided that a joint team would be set up to begin implementation of the achievements of the peace process, first and foremost, the termination of the Arab boycott. The Americans are pressuring Saudi Arabia to take part in the move and lead it. Foreign Minister Peres raised the issue yesterday with Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in the United States.

## Tunisia

### Report on Diplomatic Ties With Israel Denied

*JN1509061393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Tunis—Said Ben Mustapha, Tunisian secretary of state for Maghreb Union (UMA), yesterday categorically denied reports promoted by Israeli and other media on the possible establishment of diplomatic ties between Tunisia and Israel.

In a statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency in Tunis, Ben Mustapha added that reports of a meeting between Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Habin Ben Yahya with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington on the sidelines of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signing ceremony were incorrect. He affirmed that these reports are baseless.

Rumors circulated among press quarters in Tunis yesterday that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres might visit Tunisia en route to Israel from Morocco. However, Said Ben Mustapha categorically denied this, saying: These reports are merely rumors without any basis.

Paris Radio Monte Carlo quoted Israeli sources as saying yesterday that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Habib Ben Yahya in Washington on Sunday [12 September] on the sidelines of the Palestinian-Israeli accord signing ceremony.

## Bahrain

### Amir Meets Iranian Envoy, Urges Regional Cooperation

*LD1509084493 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 15, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Bahrain Javad Tork-Abadi and Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al Khalifah in a meeting here Tuesday [14 September] discussed Tehran-Manama relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest as well as regional situation and recent developments in Muslim world.

The Iranian ambassador reiterated Iran's policy of safeguarding stability and security in the Persian Gulf region and developing good-neighbourly relations with neighbouring countries.

He stressed that expansion of Tehran-Manama ties would be to the benefit of all Muslim nations in the region.

Shaykh Khalifah also underlined the need for boosting Iran-Bahrain bilateral relations and underscored constant contacts among regional countries.

## Kuwait

### Paper Notes Need for Israel To 'Uphold Arab Rights'

*LD1509092193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0814 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sep (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM says today that "if Israel is genuine in its orientation toward peace it only needs to uphold Arab rights on all fronts at once."

It adds: "Washington must realize that protecting peace is achieved through the strength of right which gives both sides to the conflict an equal opportunity in creating a joint peace, and not through the right of force which entrenches the injustice that underpinned the conflict in the first place."

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM affirms that "piecemeal peace and fragmentation of rights will only be a temporary 'truce' which will not stand up to the realities of history." It points to the uniting of the "Arab rifle" and the "Israeli rifle" in confronting one objective: "protecting the agreement from collapse."

The paper asks: "Is this the start of the march of cooperation and the building of bridges of peace over the rubble?"

It says that Israel made the Arabs pay a dear price at war and it is now making them pay a heavy price for peace. "The agreement has set sedition free and divided the Arabs into two: those in favor of the agreement and those who oppose it.

## Saudi Arabia

### King Talks by Phone With Kuwaiti, Egyptian Leaders

*LD1409193493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, today received a telephone call from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the fraternal State of Kuwait. During the conversation, new developments concerning the Arab and international arenas were discussed.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, also held a telephone conversation with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The conversation was held within the framework of the continuous contact between the two leaders on the new developments at the Arab and international level.

### Prince 'Abdallah Receives Call From Kuwaiti Premier

*LD1409230993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2140 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received a telephone call from his brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait.

They reviewed the recent development of regional Arab issues and issues of common interest.

### PLO-Israel Accord, Need for Palestinian Unity Viewed

*LD1409144393 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 14, SPA—The Saudi newspapers commented today editorially on the siging of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Jeddah-based AL-MADINAH said it seems that the region has opened a new page in its history not only the nations of the region but also the entire world will look with optimistic eyes the end of the era of the Arab-Israeli dispute which included four wars, said the daily. The daily noted that the agreement signed by the Palestinians and Israelis reflects the desire of the two concerned parties.

It is hoped that the signing of the agreement will pave the way for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and enable the Palestinians to restore their

legitimate rights, said the daily. Warning against turning the Arab-Israeli conflict into a Palestinian-Palestinian one, 'UKAZ, which is also published in Jeddah, urged the Palestinians to close their ranks.

The Palestinians should revise their means of political struggle, and vigilantly observe these new developments, said the paper.

On the other hand, Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the Palestinian people have every right to bless this agreement which comes as a result of their continuous struggle. It is high time for the Palestinians to close their ranks so as to protect their gains and interests, said the daily. Realization of peace in the Middle East is an essential matter for the entire world, said the daily. The paper urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility towards realization of peace in the region.

The U.S., Europe, Japan, Russia and the organization of the United Nations as well as the international financial institutions should play a positive role in enhancing the pillars of peace, said the daily.

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said the signing of Gaza-Jericho agreement will open a new page in the history of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Despite the different views on the evaluation and interpretation of the agreement, yet it constitutes an achievement, said the daily. The daily underscored the importance of international support to give an impetus to the peace process in the region. The daily pointed out that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz had reiterated in his message to U.S. President Bill Clinton the keenness of the nations of the region on realization of a lasting, comprehensive and just peace.

On the other hand, Makkah-based AL-NADWAH underscored the importance of dialogue among the Palestinian factions and the implementation of legitimacy resolutions. Any Israeli endeavour to escape just peace will lead to new rounds of fighting, said the daily. Acceleration for the implementation of the legitimacy resolutions through the withdrawal of the occupying forces or the implementation of Gaza-Jericho agreement is the only mean for prevention of new fighting in the region, said the daily.

For its part Dammam-based AL-YAWM underlined the importance of international support and in particular the American support for the implementation of the agreement signed by the Palestinians and Israelis. It is hoped that Washington will extend guarantees for the implementation of the agreement so as to prevent Israel from returning to the policy of maneuvers, said the daily. Washington should play a positive role to realize peace in the region, said the daily.

## Press Examines Potential Obstacles on Road to Peace

*LD1509080893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0406 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Sep (SPA)—[passage omitted] The leading article in AL-BILAD affirms that with the signing of the agreement between the PLO and Israel a new climate has just begun whose breeze has started to blow in the Middle East. It says that this climate is favorable for opportunities of cooperation and understanding on the basis of mutual respect between the states of the area. It is also favorable for transforming the resources spent on wars into resources for reconstruction, building and development, and for taking the Middle East out from the bottleneck which blocked all hopes for real progress.

AL-MADINAH concentrates in its leading article on the speech by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It says that he devoted a great part of his speech to talk about the past and he began in a manner tinged with religious bigotry and fanaticism. It says that Rabin failed in his speech when he said that he had come from Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel.

There is one thing, however, namely that Rabin ignored UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 which clearly call for withdrawal from all the occupied Arab areas. [passage omitted]

The leading article in 'UKAZ says that the agreement which was signed on the lawn of the White House is only the beginning of a long road full of endless Israeli bends and potholes. [passage omitted]

The paper stressed the need for the cohesion of Arab ranks in the coming period to enable Arab right to be retrieved on all fronts.

The Israelis are still hesitant while they are shaking hands with us. This indicates that they have accepted reconciliation grudgingly, despite the meagre benefit the Arabs gained from this agreement. [passage omitted]

The paper AL-YAWM says that Israel's affirmations that Jerusalem is to remain Israel's eternal capital was an attempt to impose an established fact, but these affirmations are rejected both in the Arab and Islamic worlds and will be a stumbling block in the coming round of peace negotiations. The paper says that if Israel thinks that it has scored a great victory because the PLO recognized its existence, it is premature to hurriedly give complete legitimacy to the formula of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement before its provisions are really implemented within the framework of U.S. and Russian guarantees which clearly call for withdrawal from occupied Arab areas in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

### PLO's Qaddumi Visits, Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

*JN1509093393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, who arrived in Baghdad last night.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad Sakhr [Habash], also known as Abu-Nizar, as well as the head of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau at the Revolution Command Council.

### 'Most Senior' Air Force Officer Reportedly Executed

*NC1409185593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The Iraqi regime executed Major General Salam, the most senior officer in the Iraqi Air Force, in Baghdad on 7 September. According to informed sources, Maj. Gen. Salam was arrested several weeks ago with a group of senior retired officers.

According to reports, Baghdad's ruling regime recently arrested a large number of Army officers and issued orders banning officers, both serving and retired, from traveling abroad.

### Extensive Regime Offensive in Marshlands Reported

*NC1409185593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] have reported that the Iraqi regime's forces have launched an extensive offensive against marshland residents in al-Basrah Governorate, using 15 armored vehicles backed by long-range heavy artillery.

The sources said that popular resistance forces confronted the attackers and after a fierce battle compelled the regime's forces to flee after three of their armored vehicles sustained direct hits and they suffered a number of dead and wounded.

The sources added that the regime later intensified its artillery bombardment, setting fire to several of the citizens' houses in the area.

### Late August Rebel Operations Reported

*NC1409152093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The popular forces have stepped up their successful operations against the ostracized regime's forces in some areas of al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate.

According to opposition sources, the popular forces carried out three operations in late August, killing three members of the regime's forces, including an officer, and wounding two others. The sources added that leaflets opposed to the regime of the dictator Saddam Husayn have been distributed in several areas of al-'Amarah.

The popular forces also detonated explosive devices in weapons and ammunition stores in central Iraq. Opposition sources said this daring operation destroyed military equipment and set several stores on fire.

### Mujahidin Kill 'Mercenary' in al-Nasiriyah

*JN1209080293 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Sep 93*

[Text] In reply to the repressive and terroristic policy pursued by the tyrant regime against the Iraqi people, encouraged by world silence over this policy, a mujahidin group affiliated with the Islamic resistance forces ambushed a Saddamist mercenary's car in the al-Salihiyah quarter in the city of al-Nasiriyah a few days ago. The mercenary's name is [first name indistinct] Wajid.

The sources of our zealous mujahidin said that this daring operation resulted in meting out fair punishment on the mercenary and in destroying his Caprice-type car. The mujahidin also seized his personal weapon and some important documents that were in his briefcase.

The aforementioned criminal is a prominent member of the regime's crusader party. He has a wicked record of pursuing and arresting scores of faithful youths in the city of al-Nasiriyah.

After performing this sacred legitimate duty on behalf of the sons of our patient people, our mujahidin group returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

### Cabinet Discusses Cultivation, Harvest Issues

*JN1209113893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Sep 93*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The Council of Ministers held its regular weekly session under Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir this morning. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended.

The Council discussed the topics listed on its agenda, which included several organizational and economic issues, such as the harvest campaign of the previous season and the importance of preparing as of now the cultivation and harvest campaign for the next season.

### Israeli-Arab-Turkish Electricity Cooperation Cited

*JN1209073493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 12 Sep 93*

[Text] Diplomatic sources have affirmed that the ministers of electrical energy in Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and the

Zionist entity held extensive contacts last week to finalize a draft joint cooperation agreement on electricity.

In a statement to an Iraqi news agency correspondent in Cairo, these sources said that Zionist Energy Minister Moshe Shahal [as heard] has sent a draft agreement on the exchange of electrical energy and expertise to his counterparts in the aforementioned countries to ensure endorsement of the agreement.

The sources added that the draft agreement stipulates that the Zionist entity will be provided with electricity via Syria by way of a cable emanating from Turkey. The draft agreement also provides for the establishment of a joint electrical power station in the Dead Sea area to provide certain Arab areas with electricity.

In a separate development, several [Arabian] Gulf businessmen have arrived in occupied Jerusalem for talks with their Zionist counterparts. During their visit, they will discuss the launching of several joint ventures in the Arab region and occupied Palestine within the context of the so-called Middle East market.

Sources said that a large delegation led by Zionist engineer (Ityal Husif), chief of a commission of experts, arrived in the Kuwait area this week to conclude technical and trade agreements with Kuwait, according to which Kuwait will finance several Zionist projects and buy shares in some firms.

### Media 'Blackout' on U.S. 'Crime' in Somalia Hit

*JN1009204293 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 10 Sep 93*

[Text] Baghdad, Sept.10, INA—The INA international affairs editor said that amidst the news of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the American and Western news media maintained on purpose a blackout on yesterday crime committed by the American forces in Mogadishu against Somali civilians.

The editor said that news reports from Somalia referred to the killing and injury of hundreds of Somali people, the affair that had forced 97 Congress members to ask President Clinton to verify the presence of American forces in Somalia.

The INA international affairs editor called upon international bodies and humanitarian organizations to condemn the new crime of the United States against an Arab people and to intensify calls for withdrawing the American forces from Somalia.

The INA editor also called the Arab League to bear its historic responsibility in defending Somalia, the member state of the league whose people are facing annihilation and to put end to this painful state.

The INA editor further added that bearing responsibility by the Arab League during this critical stage is a decisive duty dictated by the league tasks for defending sons of the Arab nation against the vicious attack to which they are exposed and which is after undermining the entire Arab countries.

The INA editor appealed to national forces in the Arab homeland and the world to raise their protests and appeals for saving Somalia against the ugly American tyranny, the real enemy of human rights in the world.

### Arab 'Indifference' Decried

*JN1109165893 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 11 Sep 93*

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 11, INA—The Iraqi dailies for today lashed out at the recent American carnage in Somalia, confirming it had substantiated brutality of the White House policy and its despise by the humanitarian and ethical values and norms.

The dailies said that killing more than 100 civilians in Somalia by fires of the American helicopters had torn up Washington's false cards over the defence of the human rights.

The dailies have also slammed the formal negative attitude by the Arab countries towards the American carnage against the Arab people of Somalia, considering silence of the Arab League over this disgraceful crime as a retract of the abidance by the league charter and convention of the joint Arab defence.

For its part, AL-QADISIYAH daily, mouthpiece of the Defence Ministry, said that the American massacres in Somalia unmasked brutality of the American demon and disclosed falsity of the White House slogans on the human rights .

The paper called upon the patriotic and national forces all over the Arab homeland to secure effective procedures to assist the Somali people in their plight. It also urged the fair-minded people around the world to move swiftly for withdrawing the American invading troops from Somalia.

AL-IRAQ newspaper has described the Thursday carnage by the U.S troops in Somalia as new odium added to the shameful U.S history in dealing with the world states and issues of the peoples. The paper slammed indifference showed by the Arab League on the bloody events in Somalia which it is supposed to move quickly to defend the Arab right and protect the supreme Arab interests.

## Recent Allied Air Activity Protested to Arab League

### 4, 5 Sep 'Violations' Reported

*JN0909095693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 9 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League of the continued provision of facilities by the

rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for U.S., British, and French aircraft that violate the Iraqi airspace, thereby posing a serious threat to Iraq's security and sovereignty.

The message, which was addressed yesterday by Iraq's Arab League representative to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, says that the U.S., British, and French planes continued on 4 and 5 September to violate the Iraqi airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 154 hostile air sorties.

Iraq's permanent representative, who attached to his message a detailed list of these violations, asked the Arab League secretary general to distribute this message to the member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

### 6-9 Sep Sorties Noted

*JN1209093693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 12 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers imposed on Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace during the period 6-9 September, flying from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 103 hostile air sorties during that period.

A list detailing these violations was attached to the letter. The Iraqi Arab League delegate requested that the letter be circulated among the Arab League members so they may learn of its contents.

### Airspace Violations Detailed

*JN1309184793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 13 Sep (INA)—Iraq has once again addressed a letter to the Arab League secretary general regarding the continued facilities offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace.

Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said on 9 September these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, conducting 57 aggressive sorties.

A list detailing these violations was enclosed with the letter.

### 10-11 Sep 'Violations' Protested

*JN1509105593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (INA)—Iraq has again lodged a complaint with the Arab League, stating that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, noting that this seriously jeopardizes Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft conducted 116 hostile air sorties on 10-11 September.

Iraq requested that this letter, to which a list detailing these violations was attached, be circulated among Arab League members so they may learn of these regrettable incidents.

### Letter to UN Protests U.S. Spy Plane Flights

*JN1009102893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0924 GMT 10 Sep 93*

[Text] New York, 10 Sep (INA)—Iraq has voiced its vigorous condemnation of the continuing violations of its airspace by the U-2 U.S. spy plane, which pleads aerial surveys on behalf of the Special Commission.

A letter from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali noted that this aircraft is being used for purposes other than those specified by the UN Security Council and that their activity erodes Iraq's sovereignty and security.

The plane breached Iraqi airspace three times between 2 and 7 September, taking off from bases on Saudi territory, flying mainly over northern, central, and southern territories of Iraq.

The letter indicated that the latest flights bring the number of the breaches to a total of 163.

Iraq also protested to the United Nations the ongoing violation by American aircraft of Iraq's airspace for reconnaissance and provocation purposes.

A protest note to the UN secretary general said the American aircraft overflew northern and southern territories between 31 August and 6 September mounting 434 sorties.

## Rabin, Peres Return, Comment on Peace Process

*TA1509065493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Excerpt] The prime minister and foreign minister returned to Israel early this morning and were accorded a full state ceremony. Hayim Hecht reported from the airport.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The protocol of the state ceremony needs to be observed in full, even if the prime minister's plane lands at 0445. The Knesset speaker, the cabinet ministers, and representatives of the diplomatic corps were all there, some of them still looking sleepy. This time, however, as Minister Shim'on Shetrit said, getting up was different because of the sense that we are making history. Knesset Member Shlomo Buhbut came all the way from the northern border in order to be among those greeting the prime minister. If he made it to Morocco, I can travel to the airport from Ma'alot, Buhbut said.

Upon disembarking from the plane to the sound of fanfare, the prime minister did not smile or wave. As he has throughout the entire trip, he presented a business-like and restrained approach.

[Rabin] It is the eve of Rosh Hashana. I think there is a great chance that next year will mark a turning point toward peace, while we will continue to maintain security. This does not mean there will be no obstacles or enemies to the process, but we will have to overcome—this time, if possible through the united forces of both Israelis and Palestinians who were our enemy to date and will now have to make a joint effort with us if they want to achieve even some of the goals.

[Hecht] The two Likud deputies to the Knesset speaker, 'Ovadya 'Eli and Dov Shilansky, as well as Moshe Qatzav, head of the Likud Knesset faction, boycotted the state reception. They said: We will be unable to shake the prime minister's and foreign minister's hands, which are still warm from shaking the hand of the arch-assassin, 'Arafat.

[Rabin] I made a basic decision that the Palestinian partner will be the PLO—both the local and the outside PLO. As long as they uphold their commitments, as long as they implement the entire agreement, they can be partners.

[Hecht] In contrast to the prime minister, Shim'on Peres said: In light of the outstretched arm, I did not hesitate for a single moment.

[Peres] Whether I love this outstretched arm or not, we did want an outstretched arm. We are not the ones who elect the leaders of another nation, and it is with them that peace should be made.

[Hecht] The prime minister was asked: How about the continuation of the process? Will the Syrians agree to wait?

[Rabin] It is always past enemies who can build different relations for the future. At this stage, the focus is on implementing what was agreed upon. As for the continuation of the deliberations with others, we shall see what happens in the wake of the dialogue with Jordan. Let us all hope that next year will be a much better year indeed. Happy New Year.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 September adds that commenting on an Israeli-Jordanian agreement in yesterday's news conference in Morocco, "Yitzhaq Rabin said the problems can be solved within a week and the agreement will be signed if a propitious atmosphere prevails in the Arab world."]

[Hecht] Minister Moshe Shahal, who filled the prime minister's position at the Defense Ministry, too, briefed him about the violent clash with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people on the outskirts of Hebron.

[Shahal] The Hamas and Islamic Jihad set themselves a goal that the more rapprochement, the more peace, the more they will try to sabotage this process. I am confident of one thing: The security forces will find them.

[Hecht] Shim'on Peres said: I am sorry about these terrorist actions, but they only prove that the agreement with the Palestinians is the solution.

[Peres] I think it is more logical that Palestinians will handle Palestinians without our intervention. I think they can be more effective and confront their armed opposition, so that Israel will relieve itself of the duty of silencing the weapons of this armed opposition and of forcefully defending the unarmed majority.

[Hecht] Yitzhaq Rabin rushed to leave the airport. He has to go to the Defense Ministry today, and he still has SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] affairs to deal with. [passage omitted] [end recording]

## Plan for Talks With Jordan Reported

*TA1509110093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Sep 93 pp A1, A10*

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] With the resumption of the Washington peace talks—presumably in November—Israel and Jordan will launch a practical discussion of Jordan's demand to regain territories along the Jordan River which Jordan claims were annexed by Israel in 1948.

Israeli elements have said that in the negotiations on the borders, Israel will propose various alternatives to prevent the need to evacuate kibbutzim situated on disputed lands in southern Dead Sea and Bet She'an areas. The Israeli plan will include proposals aimed at improving the water economy of Jordan, which claims that the seizure of its lands by hurt its water rights. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has been pressuring the Palestinians to appoint a new mayor in Gaza at once in order to allow the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement to move ahead. [Writing on page 2 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 15 September, "special correspondent in Rabat" Moti Bassok cites Peres as saying "that in response to his suggestion to elect a Gaza mayor expeditiously, the Palestinians proposed Fayiz Abu-Rahmah."]

Peres said yesterday in Rabat that in his meeting with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in Washington on 13 September, it was agreed that Israel and the PLO will appoint informal working teams within the next few days to begin coordinating the negotiations on the implementation of the declaration of principles. Peres said that the Foreign and Defense Ministries will conduct the negotiations on Gaza-Jericho First together.

Peres further said that a U.S.-European-Japanese team will soon be established to study and determine the ramifications of the agreement in the territories. The team will also include a Palestinian and an Israeli adviser. Peres further disclosed that in talks with the Palestinians, he proposed that the talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement be held in the region.

### Der'i Calls For Referendum; Resignation Takes Effect

*TA1409115193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The resignation of Interior Minister Arye Der'i went into effect this morning.

Speaking after a meeting between the spiritual mentor of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, and Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon, Der'i told Qol Yisra'el he had recommended that the rabbi call for a referendum on the agreement with the PLO. Der'i suggested this should be held on 3 November, the date set for municipal elections throughout the country.

### Netanyahu Opposes Referendum, Calls For Elections

*TA1409165293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says he is against a referendum and insists on early elections. According to Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu, the pertinent question is not whether the public supports or opposes the agreement with the PLO, but rather whether it trusts the government to take care of the country's vital interests.

This afternoon various opinions were voiced on this issue, after outgoing Interior Minister Arye Der'i told the ministry's personnel to prepare for a referendum. MK Eli Dayan, the coalition chairman, supports a referendum, whereas MK's Avraham Burg of Labor and MK Ran Kohen of Meretz oppose the idea.

### Beilin Interviewed on 'Moderate' PLO, Confederation

*NC1509105493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has stated that Israel has realized there is no alternative or party among the Palestinians more moderate or realistic than the PLO, the same as the Palestinians have realized that Israel exists in reality as a country.

In an interview with the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 17 September, Beilin said it was wrong for Israel to refuse to talk to any Arab party because this was against Israel's policy.

Asked about the IsraJli opposition's emphasis that establishing a Palestinian state constitutes a threat to Israel's security, Beilin said: We are not proposing a Palestinian state, but a confederation between Jordan and Gaza and most parts of the West Bank from which Israel will withdraw as part of the final settlement. The Israeli deputy foreign minister added that it is extremely important for the two sides to know each other's limits during the negotiations. He said he believed that for the Palestinians, that means Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory or most of it, while for the Israelis, it means not fully returning to the pre-1967 border and not giving up Jerusalem.

### Discusses Direction of Peace Process

*TA1509101493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissowitz] Good morning to Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. The question this morning is: What happens now? After such a successful trip, filled with so many hopes, the remarks we are hearing from the prime minister point to a very significant retreat in relations with Syria.

[Beilin] I believe our policy has not changed. In other words, we are open to progress on all tracks and will advance on those tracks where progress is possible. We will make every effort to advance in the near future on those tracks along which there is not much progress at the moment. The immediate effort will naturally focus on those arenas that have opened up—namely, the Palestinian and Jordanian arenas.

[Zissowitz] Nonetheless, let me ask you another question on the Syria issue. To what extent do relations such as the current ones with Syria delay moves on other fronts? After all, we are hearing heads of state say that they will

not sign an agreement with Israel or upgrade the level of relations if Syria is left out, if the move is not comprehensive.

[Beilin] It is clear there are Arab countries that will wait for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and will not want to move if we do not move toward peace with Syria and, consequently, with Lebanon. I hope this is not impossible. I think we will be able to reach a comprehensive peace as well as diplomatic relations with other Arab countries—some perhaps before progress is made with Syria, and the rest afterward.

[Zissowitz] Is there some disappointment about leaving Morocco without having resumed or established diplomatic relations?

[Beilin] Not at all. There was no prior understanding that diplomatic relations would be the result of our visit. In my opinion, it was important, even symbolically, that immediately after leaving Washington, we visited that Arab country with which we have held meetings—some of them public, including a visit by an Israeli prime minister in the past. It was a courtesy call and was nicely expressed as such in Morocco, too. This is part of the campaign of educating Arab public opinion. Anyone who watched Moroccan television yesterday understands the meaning of such a visit and of an Arab country displaying such an attitude toward Israel on the heels of the signing of the agreement with the Palestinians. It was very important for us for that reason, but there was no prior agreement on diplomatic relations and, consequently, there was no disappointment. [passage omitted]

[Zissowitz] What is the estimated timetable on the Jordanian arena?

[Beilin] As far as Jordan is concerned, the problems are very easy to solve. The prime minister spoke of a week, the foreign minister spoke of a pen, and all in all, we can finish the problems between us in a manner that will enable both sides to largely satisfy their wishes within a very short while. In my opinion, the pace of negotiations with Jordan depends totally on Jordan. In other words, if they are prepared, for example, to sit down with us after the Rosh Hashanah holiday and close the deal, we could surely achieve it. They, however, have their own considerations. They may decide to go for it, but they may still want to wait for others.

As for Lebanon, we know that we do not have a territorial problem. As has been said, we are prepared to leave that strip of southern Lebanon in which we are present if we know that the northern Israeli settlements are secure, if the problem of the South Lebanese Army is solved, and if Hizballah is disarmed. We will not remain there. So there is no substantive problem with Lebanon.

The big problem is with Syria. Here we have a formula, and I believe the Syrians will be fools if they do not rush to negotiations with us about it. The formula is that the depth of withdrawal will be similar to the degree of peace. On this, I believe, we can reach understanding with them within months and not years. I believe peace can be brought to the Middle East within months. If not, it will be a pity. Whoever does not go for this will ultimately pay a high price. I greatly hope that the Arab countries negotiating with us will understand the greatness of the hour and will advance toward peace for us, for the sake of us all. [passage omitted]

## General Closure Imposed on Gaza Strip 15-19 Sep

*TA1409205193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik—live]

[Text] In the wake of consultations held by the defense establishment in the last 24 hours, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced a few minutes ago that a general closure will be imposed on the Gaza Strip during the Rosh Hashana holiday, and that the entry of Arab laborers into Israel will be totally banned. The closure will be in effect from 1400 [1200 GMT] tomorrow until 0300 [0100 GMT] Sunday [19 September]. It should be pointed out that Gazans will be allowed to return from Israel to their homes in the Gaza Strip during the holiday.

At the same time, security troops have stepped up their activities and alertness to preclude any possible terror attacks during the holiday. In consultations held by Moshe Shahal, police minister and acting prime minister, with the chief of staff and the police commissioner two days ago it was decided to tighten the control on the movement of Arabs from the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria at the roadblocks operating in the territories.

## IDF Troops Instructed on Conduct in Wake of Accord

*TA1409163993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Sep 93 p A9*

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Major General Nehemya Tamari, the Central Command commander, has handed down to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders in the West Bank a new order in the spirit of the peace agreement which was signed yesterday. The order says:

- The troops will permit PLO flags to be flown.
- The troops will not engage in confrontations with the population in general and will not disperse peace-supporting demonstrations.
- The troops will avoid unnecessary friction with the population.
- The troops will definitely avoid causing fatalities.

Regarding the last clause, Army elements said it was problematic. Confronting disturbances, the troops will

be unable to distinguish between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and PLO-supporting Palestinians. The officers believed that some Palestinian youths would probably seek to clash with the IDF, but in time, confrontations will occur mainly with Hamas. The officers therefore opined that the demonstrations and clashes with which the IDF will have to contend will be staged mainly by Hamas and rejectionist fronts supporters.

A senior officer stationed in the West Bank said that IDF activities would be governed by confusion now that a document of principles has been signed by the Government of Israel and Yasir 'Arafat. "On one hand, we are not to interfere with festive rallies and flag hoisting. But on the other hand, we will have to contend with people who will throw stones at us and perhaps even mingle with the Palestinian crowds." [passage omitted]

### Soldiers Wounded, 'Terrorist' Killed in Hebron

*TA1509053593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] Four soldiers have been wounded—two of them seriously—in a shoot-out with terrorists in Hebron. One terrorist was killed in the clash. [passage omitted]

An initial Army investigation has determined that three terrorists opened fire from a car at an Army jeep accompanying an Egged bus close to a junction near Hebron. No one was injured from this incident, but the car continued south toward Hebron until it reached an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] roadblock. As soldiers ordered the car to stop, the terrorists opened fire. Troops fired back and the car sped away, but soon overturned and soldiers gave chase on foot. In the exchange of fire, one of the terrorists was shot and killed. The four wounded soldiers were evacuated to hospital, where the condition of two of them was described as serious. A rifle and ammunition was found close to the body of the terrorist. The Army closed off the area and imposed a curfew. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 15 September adds that the dead terrorist is believed to have belonged to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad.]

### Gaza Resident Blows Self Up at Police Station

*TA1409123893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] A victimless suicide attack has been carried out in Gaza. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that a local resident entered the inner yard of the Gaza police station with a large quantity of explosives strapped to his body. He activated the explosives and was killed. No one else was hurt and no damage was caused.

Near the Gaza City Council, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was very slightly wounded when a young Arab man tried to stab him. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe says that soldiers manning an observation post on the city council's rooftop spotted the assailant, and shot and killed him.

## Al-Majali Holds News Conference on Agenda Agreement

*JN1409190893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1731 GMT 14 Sep 93*

["Proceedings" of a news conference held by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at the Prime Ministry in Amman on 14 September—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Majali] Brothers: Please allow me to say that the principles, or the agenda, which has been agreed upon with the Israeli delegation in Washington, will be announced today. As you know, the agenda was drawn up after seven rounds of talks. However, the formula still needed some linguistic corrections for clarity. This was agreed upon during the last two rounds. What is more important is that we did not reveal the agenda because we believe in a comprehensive solution on the four tracks: the Lebanese, the Syrian, the Palestinian, and the Jordanian tracks. At the same time, we realize that the issues on each track are different from the issues on other tracks. Therefore, negotiations on them will take place at different speeds. This was agreed upon among all the Arab sides in order to stress a comprehensive solution and to clearly avoid a unilateral solution on any of these tracks.

Thus, we were quicker than others, and when other tracks did not move at the same speed, we clearly announced that we would not move any further unless the other tracks moved. Our foremost concern was the Palestinian track, since the Palestine question is the core of the original conflict. Therefore, it drew more attention.

Today, after the Palestinian track has made progress through the declaration of principles between the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations, and after the announcement of mutual recognition you watched on television and heard from other media sources yesterday, we are now free to announce that we have agreed on this agenda, and that the negotiations will proceed seriously and in accordance with the provisions of that agenda. Anytime we feel that the other tracks are delayed, we will take the same position because we believe that a unilateral solution will harm all the parties. Therefore, comprehensiveness is a must.

The agenda includes basic issues that are part of Jordan's constants. There are occupied Jordanian lands. Our rights to the waters of the River Jordan and al-Yarmuk River are being usurped and encroached on, and we want to restore these rights. We are the country that hosts the largest number of refugees. Therefore, the refugee problem should be resolved. We fear the displacement of Palestinians to Jordan. This should also be included in the agenda. We also fear an aggression against Jordan.

These five issues are basic to us in these negotiations. Through this agreement with the Israeli side, we have managed to include the basics of the solution and the next negotiations into this agenda. A basic item, which is number one, was also included. It is on the objective of the negotiations, which is reaching a comprehensive solution among Israel and the concerned Arab countries and the Palestinians.

These are the basics that were included in the agenda. They are clear and unambiguous. There are no secret or declared annexes to the agenda. The only thing there is this agenda, which will be declared today at the U.S. Department of State by the head of the Jordanian delegation and the head of the Israeli delegation.

I think that the initial version of the agenda was published, and it will be published after the Washington meeting this afternoon, local time, and will be made available to you and to all others.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Prime Minister: You have just said that Jordan will go ahead in the negotiations with Israel, and that if no similar success or progress is made on other tracks you will repeat the experiment and stop progressing until progress is made on the other tracks. Do you feel that the other parties, particularly the Palestinians, have the same Jordanian commitment?

[Al-Majali] One should be true to himself, and we think that the others should be the same, and should not doubt this.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us which points were amended?

[Al-Majali] No amendments were made to the Arabic version. However, there was discussion on the linguistics of the issue on borders between Jordan and Palestine. The borders between Jordan and Palestine are those recognized during the [British] mandate. Now, there are two parties sharing these borders. Israel is in the southern part and in part of the northern area. In the center there is the West Bank or the Palestinian territories. Therefore, this expression was used in order to make it clear that borders between us and Israel are those recognized during the mandate, taking into consideration that this does not at all affect the Palestinian territories' rights to these borders.

[Correspondent] After examining the agreements and their annexes, we notice that there are strong Israeli-Palestinian economic relations. How does Jordan view this issue in light of talk about a confederation? The other issue is that some news agencies are pointing out the existence of some harassment at the follow-up and inspection department of those who hold documents and temporary passports. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Majali] There is no harassment. However, you recall that some time ago, Israel reduced the age of citizens who want to travel with a permit from 35 years of age to 25 years of age and also reduced the travel fees. As a result of the pressure on those citizens, many of them began to visit Jordan. Of course, when reasonable limits are exceeded, we must adopt a certain stand. Or else we

will be assisting in the displacement of people from the West Bank to the East Bank. These are regulations, not obstacles, aimed at clarifying the issue. The PLO and Jordan totally agree not to allow displacement from the West Bank to the East Bank. However, at the same time, facilitations should be given to those who have a certain interest.

As for the economic issues, we should not pass early judgments. Of course, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement refers to economic issues to be discussed. However, how this is to be done comes later. Moreover, the Jordanian agenda contains economic issues. However, we have not committed ourselves with Israel regarding these issues. I do not think that the Palestinians committed themselves to economic issues either. They are simply issues contained in the agenda for discussion. This discussion requires thousands of pages and rigorous work in order to actually reach real economic relations.

[Correspondent] What are the topics to be discussed with the Palestinian president? And do you have a clear idea of the agreement that we reached in Washington yesterday, since no official Jordanian statement was issued?

[Al-Majali] Jordan's official position was announced several times by his majesty the king and his highness the crown prince. I, as well as the information minister, also explained it. We maintain a firm position. We have always supported the Palestinian decision since the Rabat summit conference, at which the Palestinian brothers and the Arabs insisted that the Palestinian brothers should be independent and that the PLO was the sole legitimate representative. We accepted that, and we have to respect it. They made a decision, and we support them in that. However, a decision about which we have no say cannot impose anything on us. If that decision harms us in any way, we will be prepared to negotiate with the Palestinian brothers to avoid the harm.

Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations, I can say that they are very close, will continue to be very close and warm, and no one can sever them. Regarding our relationship with the Palestinian leadership in light of the new arrangement, we will set up a joint committee to discuss many points. We will also draw up an agenda with the Palestinian brothers like the one we have drawn up with the Israelis for negotiations. Previously, we have coordinated the negotiating position.

Now that the Palestinian delegation has become independent, there is no longer any need for an umbrella. Therefore, the joint delegation umbrella ended yesterday, and we now have a Palestinian delegation and a Jordanian delegation that are completely independent from each other.

[Jordan Television reporter Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Your Excellency, regarding the city of Jerusalem, things are not quite clear. Rabin, for example, announced yesterday that it is Israel's eternal capital; the PLO says discussing Jerusalem has been delayed; and Jordan says it is responsible for holy places in Jerusalem. So things are confusing. Can you clarify matters regarding Jerusalem?

[Al-Majali] If you listen to various statements and take each one as holy writ, then perhaps all of us would not be meeting here right now. We have heard statements from the previous and current Israeli leaders on many occasions. What is important is what happens on the ground and through agreement. The brother Palestinians and Israel agreed that Jerusalem will be discussed at the final stage. As I read in the agreement also, negotiations on the final status could begin immediately, that is after days or weeks they may discuss the final status. The questions of Jerusalem, settlements, borders, and security are difficult issues that have been postponed until the final negotiations. What we have at present is a first step on a long, long track, which is still a complex track that requires patience and care. So there is no contradiction between this and that. Jerusalem is clearly in the final stage.

[Jordan Television reporter 'Adnan al-Zu'bi] Your Excellency, you said the agenda includes basics of the solution and basics of the negotiations, can you tell us more about this point? Also, could you tell us whether the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles is as comprehensive and detailed as the agenda?

[Al-Majali] Your question about the basics, they are: 242 and 338; that it is a comprehensive peace [preceding two words in English]; and that it is land-for-peace. This applies to us as a Jordanian state and also to the Palestinian track. This is a very important point. Second, the refugees, which will be resolved in accordance with international law, which stipulates the right of return or compensation. This is a basic question, and it was not an easy thing to have it on this agenda. Another issue is the right to waters. Even if this involves only one cubic meter of water, it remains a right that should be returned to us. Also, that no one should emigrate to Jordan, and that Israel and Jordan will work to make the region free of weapons of mass destruction. These are also basic. Of course, the spirit of the agenda supports the Palestinian side—that 242 applies to them, that not allowing emigration serves them, that resolving the question of refugees also serves them, and most importantly, that we will not conclude a peace treaty without them. This goes for the rest of the brother Arabs, since 242 stipulates withdrawal from all Arab territories, and that we will not conclude a peace treaty without them. These are the basics on the agenda.

## Further on News Conference

*JN1509074993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1920 GMT 14 Sep 93*

["Recording of English part" of a news conference with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by unidentified reporters at the Prime Ministry in Amman on 14 September]

[Text] [Al-Majali] Ladies and Gentlemen: Today we are going to announce in Washington, in the State Department, the acceptance of the agenda which has been worked out through the first seven rounds of negotiations. And it reached almost complete acceptance at the time with little language difficulty, which we cleared afterwards, but with the idea that we have and we believe that peace has to be comprehensive, and comprehensive in all the tracks—the Lebanese, the Syrians, the Palestinians, and the Jordanians—we felt that we have progressed and we couldn't go any further without the others moving. More especially on the Palestinian side, because the Palestinian problem is the core of all the problems in the Middle East. So, that has a more specific treatment.

As you know, all of you, yesterday, it's been announced that there is an agreement of principles between the Palestinians and the Israelis and a recognition of both sides, which shows that the progress has taken place, so, we are free to announce this, and we hope that the Syrian and the Lebanese track will do the same in the coming weeks. We hope so. We have no real information to that effect. But, I believe that the ball is moving and rolling, and I think all the tracks will be moving alongside with each other.

As I said, the principles that we worked out through the negotiations that Jordan has from the beginning made it absolutely clear that we will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, and we will not sign for them. In other words, there is no way out but to recognize the leadership of the Palestinians which, luckily, has become true and as a fact of yesterday. So, this is essential to our announcement on the agenda which I have mentioned, and it is going to be this afternoon by the head of the Jordan delegation and the head of the Israeli delegation.

This is what I want to say today. In this agenda, there are certain items of absolute importance to Jordan. As you may well know that we have Jordan territories occupied by Israel which we need to take it back. We have our water which is being taken from the Jordan River and the al-Yarmuk River, which we hope that it is going to be back to us, and we are the highest per capita of refugess in any country in the world. We want solutions to their problem, and we are always afraid of transfer. So, again, that's part of this agenda, and we do not want anybody to touch our security as well. In the same time, we stand by the Palestinians, with their decision. They are free to take their own decision because we were behind and pushing the recognition of the Palestinian entity, and now it is being recognized from the United States of America and from the Israelis. So, we could say that we have participated in this, and, luckily and successfully, it has taken place. And now I would leave you to ask any questions you like. First, let us finish with the Arabic side, and then we go to the English side.

[Reporter] In the last round of negotiations, the Israelis said they would put a ceiling of $15 million on Jordanian exports into the West Bank and Gaza. Number one, can you talk about what kind of a....[rewords question] whether that's acceptable or not acceptable and why? And can you also talk about the economic ramifications of everything that's going on for Jordan negatively and positively?

[Al-Majali] First, the $15 million. It has been talked about through the rounds. The objection about this [is] that we import from the West Bank more than this figure and we do not charge customs. The Israelis were insisting that they will make the items which go to the West Bank under customs, which we refuse completely because it's not right. We said at one time, if that collection of the customs will go to the Palestinian entity or Palestinian government, then we will not have any objection. But again, this has to be negotiated with the Palestinians for their interim self-government.

The economic side is going to be negotiated between us and the Palestinians with the interim government, not only economic, all other items. And we have formed committees to negotiate with the Palestinians on all these items. Again, we have another agenda between us and the Palestinians and the Israelis, which the three parties are concerned in certain items, which they have to be negotiated among the three together. Just like the, again, the multilateral, when cases need more than the three sides for such a point. So, the day will come when these things will be more and more clear.

[Reporter] The PLA in Egypt has said that no PLA forces from Jordan or Iraq will be deployed in Jericho and Gaza. But, the head of the PLA here ...

[Another reporter, interrupting] The PLA?

[Reporter] The Palestine Liberation Army in Egypt has said this. But the head of the PLA here says that all of his forces are going to be deployed in Jericho. Do you have any information on that?

[Al-Majali] We have not negotiated this. We know that there is a Palestinian contingency here. They've been here for a long time and if they decide to take them to the West Bank, it is their decision to do so.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Jordan believes in a comprehensive peace with all Arab parties?

[Al-Majali] Well, I don't think it is contradictory. No doubt, you have to remember Madrid was a breakthrough, breakthrough in a lot of the wrong images which used to be, both sides. In the West, the image about the Palestinian problem, among public, not experts, that Palestine is the homeland for the Jews, and nobody has contested this for decades, in fact, centuries. When the challenge came, it took the shape of the kind of violence and force. So, they started saying Palestinians are terrorists, and then if they are kind to them, they say: Well, let them go and live in Jordan to form their state. This is, before Madrid, more or less, the idea or the image about the case in the West. Madrid has broken this, that there is an entity called Palestinian entity, and it was a civil entity, and there was absolutely Jordan presence as a

complete independent civil state. So, this was the first breakthrough in Madrid. Now, the second one, again it is as big—that they have recognized the PLO, they recognized the leadership of Palestine. The Palestinian leadership is being recognized, and this is another breakthrough. So, whether it is too much of a celebration or less celebration, I think each one has its own taste.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] it should have been done with all Arab parties together.

[Al-Majali] It has nothing to do with the Arab parties. This is between the Palestinian organization and the Israelis. These are between two sides. And especially, we have to remember they refused them to be an entity before Madrid. And even, in Madrid, they imposed the idea that even in the Palestinian track, there should be two Jordanians, and in the Jordanian track, there should be two Palestinians to keep the idea of the joint delegation, because they did not accept the Palestinian entity. Now, it is no more. So, there is a lot of change. But, this is between them. It is not for every Arab case.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Palestinians Jordan would like to resettle or repatriate, and whether you have already started discussing figures with the Israelis?

[Al-Majali] Well, it is, this question is like how much money you want to have: One million, or two million, or 10 million. This is, I cannot answer, because these people are here. They are in Jordan. The majority of them has got Jordan nationality, and Jordan passport. Some of them have what they call temporary passport, because they come from the West Bank. But how many, we cannot tell. We cannot say 10,000, or 100,000, or 1 million. That would come in the time for the negotiation, when we will sit with the Palestinians, and some part of it, may be, with the Israelis, to see what are the principles of return; I mean, the international law did not say numbers. It said the right of return or compensation. So, we want to see the refugees who would like to return, and what is the number—I cannot tell you—or who wants compensation, and how is the compensation is to take place, on what basis. Again, the other displaced people, which mean people who left the occupied territories, 67 and after, these people are covered by Resolution 274, which, if I am right in the number, [corrects himself] 237, sorry, that they have the right to return, full stop. No words of compensation. These people have the right, but nobody can go and push them against their will to return.

[Reporter] All we hear about is the 1967 occupied territories? What about those who came before?

[Al-Majali] Well, you have to know what are the categories. Those who in 1948 left their homes are called refugees. Those who left in 1967 are called displaced. Those who left by force, deportees. Those who left for (?logistic) problems and they are not accepted, they are family unification, and we can even spell some more. You know, the dictionary is full of these new words for this business.

[Reporter] Coordination with Jordan during these fast-moving events, and whether or not, the question, the answer to that is yes or no, what is Jordan going to do to try to improve coordination during these coming months of negotiations?

[Al-Majali] Well, when we were in Washington, the coordination was there, and they knew, for instance, this agenda. The Palestinian two members were participant in every word of it. So, they were there. On their side, we used to know what is going on. But, because it is not a concrete thing which has taken place, so did not come to a certain thing. But, most of even what has come in the new declaration has been taken in Washington. Most of these things, that the territories are one integral unit, that East Jerusalem people will participate in the voting, legislative power, and so on. I mean, this is being done through Washington. Maybe it was parallel to what is going on in Norway but, that was the biggest principles were taken there. Possibly, the biggest decision was the recognition of the leadership. And, as you know, in the days of Shamir, we would never do that, and he had the law. They waited till the change of leadership, change of law, change of this till the recognition takes place. So, it takes time.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] on September 20, and what would be the Jordanian approach to the World Bank proposed a development for the occupied territories, and does Jordan find a role for itself in the process? Thank you.

[Al-Majali] Well, Jordan is a state. Let me remind you, Jordan is a state and takes its own matters with the World Bank like any other state. The Palestinians are going to be there, and taking their own matters in their own hands. We do not interfere on the other side. As much as we are friends and relatives and everything, certainly we will help each other stand, coordinate, and help each other to arrive on the best of results.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] yesterday and today in the quest of what you call a comprehensive and full settlement, how much further forward are we?

[Al-Majali] I think we have, once, if you want to consider because everybody has his own measurement [sentence as heard]. My personal view that the pace was right. I don't think it should have been more quicker than that because things have to settle down in the minds and the state of mind of people. When you calculate the hours which are spent on this, you will find that the achievement even bigger than the hours. [repeats himself] bigger than the.... the achievement is bigger than the hours. So, I hope now that the major things have settled, that it will be more quick. But, how quick? This depends on the other side and depends on lots of other points.

[Reporter] There have been mixed reactions among the Palestinian communities, certainly outside the territories as well as inside the territories. How concerned are you about a spillover of violence here and how would you address those concerns?

[Al-Majali] Well, you know, I have been always saying the aftermath of peace is more risky and dangerous than the aftermath of war because aftermath of war people are, you know, giving up everything. So, they accept anything. While aftermath of peace, the expectation is too high and whatever you do, it's not going to please everybody. So, there will be something. The second thing you have to remember, it is for decades, decades, decades that in the Arab Palestinian mentality cannot speak, cannot talk, cannot shake hands, cannot, cannot, cannot. [sentence as heard] To turn this so quickly is not an easy matter. So, there is different things. And again, people are always enemy of what they do not know, ignorance. Now, if they know more and more facts and they see fruits of peace, you will find that the differences are going to close, the gaps are going to close between them. But, if they see bad results, certainly it's going to be more widened and there would be even violence. We hope, we hope that the birth of this new entity will give incentive to all the parties to come together and make this new birth a proper reality and take care of it and then after they settle down, then if one wants to quarrel with the others let him go and do it.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] President 'Arafat mentioned a confederation with Jordan. He spoke about it several times. He is speaking again in Washington today. Is he getting ahead of Jordan in any sense on this issue?

[Al-Majali] I don't think there is ahead or behind. I think this idea is being thrown many, many times. In 1972, his majesty put a new formula called the United Kingdom formula. It was rejected by Arabs and by the Palestinians for one reason or another. And there are all other ideas coming through. But, we cannot impose things on the Palestinians. The Palestinians have to reach to the point were they can spell their own mind and say what they want. I imagine, I predict that the majority will ask for confederation. But the same thing we have to ask the Jordanians. So, it has to be both sides. You cannot, in the time of democracy, impose things on others, whatever, even if you want to take them to paradise, it's not accepted to take people to paradise by force or by imposing. But, one can read the interest of both sides for the future to be quite clear on this.

[Reporter] Back again to the Palestinians living in Jordan who have the right to return to their homeland, is it going to be a matter of choice for them, to go or not to go back? The Palestinians living in Jordan is it going to be a matter of choice for them, you want to go or not?

[Al-Majali] Well, you see, once you give somebody a right, you just do not go and take it back. It is not a game. I mean those who have the right to be Jordanians are Jordanians. But if they choose to go to the West Bank, to their own homes they are going to be encouraged, not just because you want to get rid of them, no, because we want again the people to be on the territories, solidly behind their leadership and to be on their own soil. So, there is no pushing around. The idea of pushing is completely rubbish. You push around in wars. When there is a war, like what happened in 1948, in 1967, yes. Like the other day, a few weeks ago in Lebanon when the bombardment, the shelling, and the attacks took place, half a million people became almost refugees. But, luckily, this didn't last for long. They went back. But, these things, you just can't do them by force. It has to be by simple decision by the person where he wants to be. If there are enough incentives there, as security, as freedom, and as work, certainly he would love to go there. Well, why these people went to the Gulf. I mean who likes to go and live in a place which is very hot, very humid and leave this country? Because there, he can have security. He can have work, and he wants to go, work, and live there. This is the idea. So, you just can't force them just by like herding them out. You just don't do that.

## King Receives Telephone Call From Mubarak

*JN1409153193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a telephone call from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The two men exchanged views on various current Arab and regional issues and recent developments in the peace process.

## King Husayn Telephones President al-Asad

*JN1409205293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] A short while ago, His Majesty King Husayn telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The two leaders exchanged views on various current Arab issues, including the peace process and its recent developments and means for consultation and cooperation with regard to the nation's issues. They also discussed ways to overcome the challenges and difficulties facing the nation during these critical circumstances, which require all to shoulder their responsibilities in order to serve the nation and its future generations.

## Paper Hopes for 'Serious' Implementation of Agenda

*JN1509102193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Sep 93 pp 1, 17*

[Editorial: "A Big Jordanian-Israeli Stride Toward Peace"]

[Text] As it had wanted, Jordan, which linked its stand to that of the Palestinians and to the other tracks of the peace negotiations, waited until the Palestinian-Israeli accord was signed before signing the agenda of negotiations with Israel. Jordan did so out of its belief in the need to achieve a comprehensive peace on the four tracks of talks without exception and, in particular, to restore the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Jordan reached an agreement with Israel on the agenda of negotiations a long time ago. However, it postponed

the signing of this agreement awaiting success in the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track as well as other tracks. This principled Jordanian stand does not surprise anyone and is not new.

Since the beginning, Jordan has been committed to the Palestinian issue, considering it its first issue and the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. When the Palestinians wanted to represent themselves, Jordan recognized the PLO as the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. Then, Jordan carried out an administrative and legal disengagement with the West Bank, leaving the door open for the PLO to negotiate under a Jordanian umbrella with Jordanian support. As His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said, Jordan handed its sovereignty over the West Bank to the Palestinians and not to Israel.

The Jordanian-Israeli agenda contains fateful issues, foremost of which are the issues of water, the repatriation of refugees, the demarcation of borders, and stopping the displacement of Palestinian citizens to Jordan. It is worth noting that the contents and provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda are based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. It is also worth noting that there are no secret annexes to the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

What is important is that the contents of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda be translated in a practical, faithful, and serious manner without any distortion, prevarication, or maneuvering on Israel's part. Jordan is concerned about rendering the process of achieving a just and comprehensive peace on all tracks a success. It is also concerned about ending regional wars and conflicts and compensating the people of the region for the lost construction, development, and resurgence.

### Agenda: Step on 'Long, Tortuous' Road

*JN1509104993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 93 p 4*

[Editorial: "Commitments and Principles"]

[Text] The signing of the joint Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace negotiations, one day after the historic signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement on self-government for the Palestinian people, basically means two things. The first is about the importance Jordan attaches to finding a solution to the Palestine problem, before the rest of the Arab World moved to make peace with the Israelis. The second is about this country's commitment to the achievement of a comprehensive peace, that is also just and lasting, to the whole conflict with Israel. As Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali did in fact point out yesterday, Jordan also needs the Syrians and the Lebanese to make real progress in their bilateral talks with the Jewish state, and hopefully join the multilateral negotiations, in order to proceed exactly on target towards the goal of peace.

Finalising agendas and declaring principles are necessary, but they are only initial steps that could and should be taken on the long and tortuous road ahead. Take a look at the items on the agenda that was reached between Jordan and Israel to see what we actually mean by this.

The issues of refugees, water, security, possible transfer of Palestinians into Jordan and boundaries are of vital interest to Jordan. The question of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons is one of the utmost importance to the Kingdom's security and stability. Unless a solution to these people's problem is found, through either repatriation or compensation, in accordance with numerous U.N. resolutions, they will certainly not feel content with whatever agreement the PLO or any other Arab party reaches with Israel. Those refugees have been living in camps or in miserable exile for the last four decades and it is time to address their problem seriously and comprehensively.

Jordan's water rights in both the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers must also be adequately addressed. With increasing populations in all the countries of the region water has become a scarce commodity. Jordan of course would be more than willing to enter into any regional scheme for the provision or desalination of water.

Borders and security too are of extreme importance to a country like ours in a region where big neighbours have in the past shown very little respect for the boundaries and sovereignty of others, especially small states.

The Jordanian territories that Israel still occupies might be small in size, but the demarcation and delineation of the boundaries with our powerful neighbour to the west is of extreme significance to Jordan's sovereignty and to international legality with which we consistently abide.

Of course Jordan, as it always maintains, is not interested in either a separate deal or an agreement with Israel before the central issue, that of Palestine, is solved. It is therefore imperative for all the tracks to progress simultaneously and to bear fruit at about the same time.

### Success of PLO-Israel Pact Depends on World Support

*JN1409121093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 93 p 4*

[Editorial: "Quite a Sight of History"]

[Text] Most of us had thought the day would never come when the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the prime minister of Israel would stand together to witness the signing of a substantial agreement towards peace between them. But the unexpected happened yesterday as Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin shook hands at the White House in recognition of their mutual efforts to make history and effect reconciliation between their two peoples.

It was quite a sight, on an incredibly momentous day, in the history of this region and its nations. It will be months, perhaps years, before the true significance of yesterday's event begins to unravel. It will not take that long, however, to understand the depth of feelings and emotions of all those who had supported, or withheld support from, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, be they Arabs or Israelis, Muslims or Jews, nationalists, or humanists.

It appears as though there is already as many opinions on the historic deal as there were guests on the South Lawn to witness its signing.

As they watched their leader sign the self-rule agreement with Israel, many Palestinians were shocked and bewildered. Some were happy and euphoric, others were sad and angry. So were many Israelis. But one feeling was common to the two peoples: they both now realise that a new era has been ushered, a new reality created.

What will this new era lead to remains a mystery. It is an unknown in which some see a better future and an end of a long struggle and others who believe it will lead to a "surrender" that can only produce more violence and strife and the death of a dream.

The uncertainty about the future and the bitterness of the past are joining forces to feed the apprehension and scepticism with which people are reacting to the Palestinian-Israeli accord. Erasing the sad and bloody memories of the past is something that neither Rabin nor 'Arafat can do. The memories of death, suffering and destruction will continue to revisit the peoples of this area for a long time to come.

But what Israel, the United States and indeed the whole world can do is to allay the fears of the apprehensive and suspicious among the Palestinians by offering the promise of a better future. That they can do and must do if they want hope and optimism to prevail over fear and pessimism. After all, it was none other than the Palestinians who had to endure the worst consequences of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and it was they who have suffered the biggest historical injustice done to any one in this part of the world in recent times.

The Palestinians will have to rebuild what the Israeli occupation has destroyed, psychologically and materially, over the years. They should not have to do that alone. The world must provide them with all the support it can give. It must convince them that the "Gaza-Jericho First" option is not the end, but the beginning of a process; that though difficult, will lead to the fulfilment of their rights as a people who have suffer d for too long and who deserve to rise again.

Israel, though it has the balance of power in its favour, should realise that its long-term stability and prosperity will never be secured unless the Palestinians feel that the "peace" they are reaching with it is a peace that guarantees their rights and not one that reflects the realities on the ground.

People have every right to see different scenarios for the future. But no two individuals can disagree that what happened in Washington yesterday has laid a new basis, and opened new avenues, for the future of the Middle East and its peoples. Whether this new chapter in our contemporary history will lead to a lasting peace or more bloodshed is yet to be seen. We are optimistic. But a positive outcome can only be determined by what Israel itself decides to do. If it decides to end it; if it recognises that the Palestinians are entitled to the right of self-determination, and accepts that right, Israel can be sure that yesterday's event will indeed be the first major step towards a comprehensive and lasting peace. Only this kind of peace can ensure Israel's security, and provide long-term stability and prosperity for the whole region.

## Accord 'First Step' Down Road to Peace

*JN1409152593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Sep 93 p 1*

[Editorial: "First Step Down Long Road"]

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli accord was signed at the White House in the full glare of publicity. All the participants in the signing ceremony hailed the accord as a historic step with implications for the whole world as well as the Middle East.

Like hundreds of millions who followed the event, we hung on every single word uttered at the ceremony and were uplifted by the hopes and promises that it inspired. Wherever we stand on the accord, there is no denying the significance of the accomplishment, not only for the parties directly involved in the conflict, but also for all the region's peoples who have had more than their share of strife and warfare, and have long craved a just and comprehensive peace acceptable to future generations.

Addressing as it does the most important track in the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks, and laying the groundwork for a self-rule authority for our Palestinian brothers, the accord will hopefully quicken the pace of movement on the other tracks.

We are only too aware—an awareness shared by the international community—that only a just and comprehensive peace grounded in UN Security Council resolutions can be viable and sustainable. Such an awareness should ultimately produce this kind of peace.

Against the backdrop of the diverse elements of the accord and the emotions and mixed feelings the signing spectacle has generated, we fervently hope that it will mark the first step down the road to a full restitution of legitimate Palestinian rights and a comprehensive and just peace advancing long-awaited regional security, stability, and prosperity.

## Officials React To 13 Sep Shooting of Demonstrators

### Nasrallah Condemns Government

*NC1409130593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] Victims of the security incident in the al-Ghubayri area yesterday between demonstrators protesting the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the Lebanese Army, deployed in implementation of the Council of Minister's decision, were laid to rest today following a big funeral in the Southern Suburb. A woman wounded in yesterday's incident died today, bringing the total number of dead to eight. Some 40 were wounded. [passage omitted]

Speaking after the funeral procession, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah strongly attacked the government. He said al-Hariri's government can never be trusted to maintain public peace or defend the resistance. He said the economic plans being discussed are just big illusions. He maintained that the government and the political authority seek, through errors, to strike the resistance, its philosophy and supporters, and rekindle the civil war in Lebanon. Nasrallah said shots were fired at the demonstrators from a military position under the airport bridge. The shooting was deliberate, implementing a political decision by the government or the Council of Ministers. Nasrallah called for the government to leave, taking with it the problems it causes. He called for a new government that would safeguard the resistance and public peace. The political and military officials who decided and implemented this ugly massacre should be punished, he said.

A general strike was staged in the Southern Suburb today as a sign of mourning. Shops were closed and black banners were raised over balconies and electricity poles.

### Week of Mourning Declared

*NC1409164093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Hizballah today laid to rest the victims of the security incident that occurred in Beirut's southern suburb yesterday. Thousands of mourners took part in the procession, including Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Islamic Higher Shiite Council, and delegations representing the political parties and nationalist and Islamic groups. The procession began at Imam al-Rida Mosque in B'ir al-'Abd and then passed through [southern Beirut's] Harat Hurayk, al-Ghubayrah, and Rawdat al-Shahidayn districts.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah delivered a speech to the massive procession. He called on the Chamber of Deputies to shoulder its responsibilities and asserted that Hizballah will not be dragged into domestic sedition.

Shaykh Nasrallah declared a week-long mourning in all Hizballah offices and centers. He said mourning rites will be observed.

In Ba'labakk Hizballah also mourned one of its members amid acts of violence. Several demonstrators stormed government offices in the city and destroyed the furnishings. They also set fire to a jeep belonging to the Internal Security Forces.

### Syria in Campaign To 'Calm Tempers'

*NC1409122093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Yesterday's clash in al-Ghubayri between demonstrators and the Lebanese Army, deploying in implementation of a Council of Ministers decision, put a cloud over today's Parliament session and the funeral procession in the southern suburb for yesterday's victims. A campaign involving local efforts as well as Damascus has been launched to calm tempers and contain the repercussions of yesterday's events, at a time when Lebanon needs unity and solidarity on the threshold of a historic stage.

Several ministers, among them Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, left for the Syrian capital today to discuss the stance.

### 'Stormy Debate' Ensues

*NC1409141293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Report by radio correspondent Tha'ir 'Abbas—recorded]

[Excerpts] Tension is easing in the Chamber of Deputies hall following a stormy debate in a session called to study the situation in light of the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its effects on Lebanon.

Deputy 'Ali 'Ammar, member of the Faithfulness to the Resistance [Hizballah] parliamentary bloc, strongly attacked the government, blaming it for the victims of yesterday's demonstration. He called for it to resign, because the bereaved mothers cannot tolerate seeing this government in a position of responsibility. He added: Let no one think after what happened that Tehran and Damascus can tame us.

A heated and fierce argument took place between the deputies of the Faithfulness bloc and Deputy Mahmud Tibbu, who rejected some of their remarks. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul responded to his critics, saying the incident will be investigated and the results announced within 24 hours. He reminded everyone of his patriotic record and rejected any suspicion that he supports the resistance. He referred to threats he received that his house would be wrecked and his children killed, saying: If this is my fate, it is welcome.

The session is continuing at a lower key, although every deputy is mentioning yesterday's incident in his speech; the subject took over the discussion that prompted the House speaker to call the session.

At the opening, Speaker Birri referred to the seriousness of the situation that led to the session being held. He emphasized three principles: national unity, coordination with Syria, and adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 425. Birri regretted yesterday's painful tragedy and hoped this would make the Lebanese more united. [passage omitted]

### Buwayz Pledges Thorough Investigation

*NC1509073293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies met for several hours yesterday. It denounced and condemned the painful incident in Beirut's Southern Suburb, saying it was intended to divert the Lebanese people's attention from the dangers surrounding Lebanon and to squander potential outside the framework of resistance and steadfastness. The Chamber of Deputies called on the government:

1. To submit a clear and unequivocal clarification of events, pinpoint the sides responsible for the incident, and submit the results of the investigation to the Chamber within three days.

2. To reconsider the resolution banning demonstrations, maintain freedom of expression, and safeguard and enhance freedom and the people's resolve to confront the Israeli occupation.

Realizing the dangers at this stage, the Chamber calls on the government to quickly take steps to implement these measures and emphasizes the need for the government to ensure the steps are soundly implemented to save Lebanon from becoming a victim of the so-called peace phase, as it was of the previous phase.

The Chamber debated the peace process and the dangers of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It made a recommendation in this respect, saying the initial signs of the agreement demonstrate Israeli intransigence and a new escalation of the situation against Lebanon and its position. This intransigence is clear in the latest Israeli working paper, which includes confusing and vague clauses, even regarding the internationally recognized Lebanese border. The Israeli paper escalates the situation badly and predicts that Israel will use all its resources to pressure Lebanon and break the national position. This prompts us to reassert the constants of this position and the basic elements that safeguard and enhance them. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz spoke for the government in reply to the deputies. He said: Events yesterday are painful for the homeland. He said that shedding Lebanese blood in domestic problems pains us most now. He stressed that the government will spare no effort to meticulously investigate the incident. He said: To those who say the investigation is worthless, we say: Lebanon is a state with institutions.

Buwayz said: We have not chosen the stage that awaits us. He pointed out that after the Versailles conference and the Yalta meeting, this stage may be the most important in contemporary history. He said it will draw the political map for this region, requiring us to rise above sensitivities and realize the delicate stage we are at. Inasmuch as our internal front is cohesive and the Arab rank unified, we will restore our rights with dignity. He said: If we get involved with domestic or Arab differences, our position will weaken, our rights will be lost, and we will be dragged into separate deals in the negotiations. He said: We face very delicate negotiations and we will face, perhaps in the next few weeks, decisive rounds of talks. The issue is not only Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories. It is deeper: The size, position, and role of each country and people in the region are being defined.

### PSP Blames Political Authorities

*NC1409130493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party has issued the following statement:

Amid the national and regional challenges facing Lebanon and the Middle East, preserving political and democratic freedom remains a primary task. The Constitution and the law protect the right to peacefully express opinions, particularly on critical, fateful issues. Hence, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] denounces the suppression of Beirut's peaceful demonstration, which sought to express its rejection of the Palestinian treaty of surrender. Second, the PSP urges the Lebanese state to conduct a prompt investigation to uncover the circumstances surrounding the regrettable incident and to clarify the facts. Third, the PSP specifically holds the political authorities responsible for the regrettable incident and affirms that the Lebanese Army must not be dragged into internal conflicts while sincere people are gambling on the Army's patriotic duty to strengthen and protect national unity. Fourth, the PSP proclaims that it adheres to political and democratic freedom and the citizens' right to express views, particularly on fateful national issues.

### Syrian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive in Beirut

*NC1509083293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived at Beirut International Airport at 1015 today accompanied by 11 ministers and senior advisers and directors general. Al-Zu'bi arrived aboard a private aircraft and was received by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. A security forces unit saluted him. After resting in the airport's

VIP lounge, al-Zu'bi and al-Hariri went to the Government House and held a first round of talks in the presence of Syrian and Lebanese ministers.

In an arrival statement, al-Zu'bi said he conveys President al- Asad's greetings to all factions of the fraternal Lebanese people and officials, primarily President al-Hirawi. He stressed that Syria appreciates Lebanon's national unity and supports Lebanon.

### IDF Officer Wounded in Shooting Incidents

*TA1409081793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer and five SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers sustained slight injuries in several firing incidents in south Lebanon last night. Lebanese media reported that two civilians were killed, but this has not been confirmed by an official source in the security zone.

The terrorists opened fire at around 0230 [0030 GMT] and continued to attack on and off until 0600. They fired at the al-Nabatiyah, Tibnin, and Bayt Yahun areas. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that about two hours ago, the terrorists fired at an SLA outpost southeast of Qabrikha. Five SLA soldiers were wounded very slightly and were evacuated to Marj 'Uyun hospital. Our correspondent reports that the IDF and SLA returned the fire in all the incidents.

### * Al-Jumayyil Criticizes Loss of Independence

*93AE0570A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Aug 93 p 3*

[Interview with former President Amin al-Jumayyil by Bisharah Shirbil and 'Ali al-Ruz; place and date not given]

[Text] London—Former President Amin al-Jumayyil considers the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council to be an "advanced step on the road to a consolidative union." In an interview with AL-HAYAH, he says that this council will transform the slogan, "one people in two states," into "two peoples in one state." He believes that the characteristics of the council, in its present form, make it "a federal authority."

He criticized Lebanon's position in the negotiations, saying that it amounts to "closing ones eyes and reciting Resolution 425." He warns that if Lebanon itself does not define its rights today, another will define them for it. He questions the premises of the resistance, saying, "Are they the liberation of Lebanon or are they to be a part of an Iranian strategy." He asks if the resistance is striving "to implement Resolution 425 [stipulating Israel's withdrawal], so that it can then attack the 1943 National Pact;" i.e., the Lebanese political system.

Al-Jumayyil strongly attacks the government, the borrowing policy, and the commercial center project. He describes the government's policy as aiming to sell gold and "pawn Lebanon and coming generations for years and years." He believes that Water and Electricity Minister George Afram was ousted to intimidate other ministers. He says that talk of there being no alternative to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at present is "an insult to Sunni leaders."

The following is the text of the interview:

[Shirbil] How do you view the appointment of a party member as secretary general of the Lebanese-Syrian Higher Council?

[Al-Jumayyil] Why the surprise? Anything else might have aroused surprise. This council is an advanced step on the road to a consolidative union between the two countries. It is thus necessary to appoint a secretary general who belongs to a party such as the Syrian Nationalist Party, whose ideology calls for the formation of Greater Syria.

[Shirbil] Is the objection therefore to the council, rather than to the secretary general?

[Al-Jumayyil] The appointed secretary general is a party member in harmony with himself and his ideology. The problem concerns the principle of this council, which contradicts the text and spirit of the Lebanese Constitution, whether regarding the formation of this council or its authorities, which cover all fields. It has become much more than a body for coordinating the special relations, to which their is no objection in principle. The council is now tantamount to an unbalanced federal authority. I do not believe that the Lebanese, with their various sects and leanings, approve of this, especially given the "acts of martyrdom" for the sake of sovereignty and independence which we are seeing daily.

The nullification of Lebanese decisionmaking and the Lebanese will in this manner and movement to implement the provisions pertaining to this council in the manner we see in the Lebanese arena will transform the slogan, "one people in two states," into "two peoples in one state."

Modern historical experience shows the danger and frailty of such slogans. Based on such slogans, Germany and Austria embarked on World War II, and the Soviet Union formed its red empire. All of us know how much this policy cost Western and Eastern Europe in terms of victims, destruction, and tragedies, before these peoples were liberated by virtue of their steadfastness and adherence to their right. History rarely errs in helping truth come into its own, which is all the more so if there is a people that insists on an honorable, free life in its independent, sovereign homeland. And the Lebanese people, with all of its groups and sects, which has offered this number of martyrs on the alter of freedom and honor, has the character of these peoples.

[Shirbil] You maintain that the Higher Council is a step toward a union, and many others stress that there is no alternative to institutions?

[Al-Jumayyil] It is not I who said that. Rather, it is the texts and scholars of constitutional law agree that the characteristics of this council—with its broad, autonomous authorities that cover all areas and control national conditions—make it an authority in itself, which is none other than a federal authority.

I believe that the word "many" is an exaggeration, especially when we read daily in the newspapers that the authors and supporters of the National Reconciliation Agreement itself believe that what is happening now is a revolt against the letter and spirit of the National Reconciliation Agreement. The low, 12-percent voter turnout in the recent elections, despite all of the pressures and enticements, is nothing but an expression of the people's rejection of what is now being imposed on it. The major countries concerned with the Lebanese question have publicly stated that our current situation is abnormal, and that the Lebanese parliament does not truly represent the national will.

**The Lebanese-Syrian Relationship**

[Shirbil] Is't a method to frame and regulate the Lebanese-Syrian relationship ultimately necessary?

[Al-Jumayyil] Are you proselytizing a believer!? As president, I was concerned with this issue. I attempted with the utmost effort and sincerity to reach, with President al-Asad, an historical, honorable agreement of which each of us could be proud before his people, not the current agreement. I question the Lebanese Government's degree of pride and the Lebanese people's degree of trust in the current agreement.

[Shirbil] You were the president of the state. At one time, the Syrian leadership considered you the best Lebanese president; your authority was absolute. Nonetheless, why was this agreement to regulate the Lebanese-Syrian relationship not reached during your tenure?

[Al-Jumayyil] First, the Lebanese president's authority is not absolute. Past media exaggeration of the president's authority only caused confusion about the presidency in order to constrain it and to imprison Lebanon's free, independent decisionmaking. The current state of the Lebanese Government confirms the accuracy of this impression.

Two reasons explain why a Lebanese-Syrian agreement was not reached during my tenure, despite Syrian "praise" for my approach, which incidently cost me upheavals in the eastern area at the time, as is well-known.

The first is my principle of wanting the agreement I was seeking to be consistent with my oath and patriotism. The agreement I sought thus differed from the present agreements.

The second reasons concern my environment at the time. Syria was then occupied in a military and political struggle with the PLO. This settling of accounts, which occurred entirely in Lebanon, was called the Camps War. Syria was also preoccupied with consolidating its strategic relationship with Iran, of which Lebanon was an extension, and for which it is still paying the price. In addition, there were other regional and international struggles at the time. Therefore, Syria was not in a state of relative relaxation, as it is today, and not in a position during my tenure to take from Lebanon what it is now taking from it after having entered into a courtship with Washington, a direct dialogue with Israel, and an alliance with numerous Arab countries after the second Gulf war.

[Shirbil] Is this the reason for the frustration of which the opposition speaks?

[Al-Jumayyil] On the contrary, what is happening now is no cause for frustration, but a cause for a responsible, courageous, patriotic stance that rejects the fait accompli and acts to regain Lebanon's right.

[Shirbil] Many speak of frustration.

[Al-Jumayyil] Such talk reflects the feelings of a helpless people. This people's will is being misrepresented. It has been banished from its institutions. Its leaders have been driven away, exiled, and killed. A lifestyle that contradicts its historical traditions has been imposed on it. Its freedoms have been denied. The democratic system in which it prides itself has been voided. These people have had representatives imposed on them; the representatives speak on the people's behalf—and the people are not to be blamed for them—deciding its fate and changing Lebanon's essence and distinctive visage in the East. In the end, frustration means a divorce between the people and the government. Today, we see a people without leaders, and a government without a people.

**Syria's Responsibility**

[Shirbil] What is Syria's responsibility regarding this divorce between the government and the people?

[Al-Jumayyil] It has become clear that Syria has seized every decision in Lebanon, from southern Lebanon to northern Lebanon. This imposes on it responsibilities arising from Lebanon's situation and the domestic and foreign consequences of this situation. I do not know to what extent Syria's interest lies in being responsible for everything in Lebanon in the midst of all these changes in the region. The calamities that occurred recently in the south could have rebounded against Syria's interest had there not been an international decision to take control of the situation to prevent it from worsening.

Therefore, we hope that Syria, as it reviews its domestic and regional strategy, will review its strategy in Lebanon. It behooves the current Syrian regime, which has put the Lebanese arena to the test for 23 consecutive years, to review its Lebanese policy and mode of relations with the Lebanese if it truly wishes, as the Lebanese people hope, for Lebanon to be its honorable, effective ally, not just a pressure card.

Even Israel, when the moment of truth arrived, reviewed its policy toward the PLO, which it regarded as a terrorist organization until a short time ago. It recognized the representative of the cause and extended a hand to reach a historical settlement and to solidify the desired solution. We desire a relationship with Syria that is based on the Lebanese and Syrian peoples' convictions and that safeguards both countries' supreme interest.

[Shirbil] You have already recognized the legitimacy of the current council, regarded it as a fait accompli, and concluded a truce with the current government. Why the campaigns to awaken doubts about decisionmaking and will?

[Al-Jumayyil] Recognition of a fait accompli is one thing and recognition of the representational capacity of institutions is another. I have always tried in my political life to be constructive and to work to develop the existing situation to achieve the goal which I seek, which is to achieve the sovereignty that has been diminished and the independence that has been lost. I have also always attempted to avoid any return to the logic of guns and rifles, which must be avoided by all means.

In my view, the current fait accompli entails state institutions that manage the people's daily and administrative affairs. This does not mean approval of this government's choices, decisions, course, and main policies. Even the major countries that deal with Lebanon based on this fait accompli in disregard of many abnormal matters do so based on the logic of maintaining a minimum existence of a state at this stage, until the region's contours become clear in the light of the results of the peace negotiations now being held in Washington.

[Shirbil] How, therefore, do you define the ceiling under which you act politically?

[Al-Jumayyil] I am working along two lines. The first is to attempt to bring about Lebanese unity to establish the Lebanese right to sovereignty, independence, and a free democratic system, and to keep the spark of hope alive among the people. The second is that I am acting diplomatically and internationally to help clarify the facts and change the reality. We are experiencing major changes. The entire Middle East is facing a critical test, and I see a real opportunity to save Lebanon.

My fear is that we will not avail ourselves of this opportunity before it passes. Therefore, the relevant parties and those who are proceeding on the basis of singularly patriotic principles must place all of their disagreements and personal sensitivities aside for the sake of coming together, keeping pace with developments, and influencing developments to Lebanon's advantage.

**Exile**

[Shirbil] How do you describe your residence abroad? Is it exile, a desire to move away, opposition?

[Al-Jumayyil] I have presently decided to leave the homeland to maintain my freedom of speech and political action, as long as the state does not fulfill its obligations to protect. I will return to Lebanon when I decide to do so, just as I did last summer.

**Negotiations**

[Shirbil] How do you evaluate the comportment of Lebanon's delegation in the negotiations?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Lebanese delegation's position in the negotiations is entirely like the Lebanese Government's position. It is driven by Syria's red, green, and yellow lights.

At the crux of the matter, there is a contradiction between Lebanon's acceptance of an invitation to a peace conference based on Resolution 242—i.e., land for peace—and the Lebanese Government's declared position of exclusive adherence to the implementation of Resolution 425.

Resolution 425 is only part of the Lebanese-Israeli problem. Seeking shelter behind Resolution 425 and refusing to discuss anything else means the nullification of Lebanon's right regarding numerous subjects which Israel hopes to avoid, such as borders and the seven villages, the dense Palestinian presence in Lebanon, energy and water, etc. In particular, we do not understand how the Arab countries can all negotiate a full, comprehensive peace with Israel, while we in Lebanon are entitled to discuss only the border strip issue.

[Shirbil] What is the reason?

[Al-Jumayyil] Is there any explanation other than that Lebanese decisionmaking has been imprisoned, and the ruling group lacks the boldness to defend the most modest Lebanese rights put forth in this historical conference.

[Shirbil] But have not the conference's two sponsors given guarantees of the implementation of 425?

[Al-Jumayyil] I reiterate that this does not suffice. Lebanon has rights and other basic demands. If it itself does not define them today, another might define them.

[Shirbil] Do you support Lebanon's entry into multilateral negotiations?

[Al-Jumayyil] Of course, for we are relevant parties and a basic element in the region. Can all of these matters be examined in isolation from us?

[Shirbil] Do you believe that the [delegation's] current behavior is a forfeiture of our right?

[Al-Jumayyil] Of course.

[Shirbil] Who is responsible?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Lebanese, chiefly the president, who is bound by the Constitution to defend the sovereignty of

the homeland and its supreme interests; the government, especially its prime minister, who holds all authorities exclusively, including those of the foreign and defense ministers; then Syria, whose negotiating track is with Israel, and which is steering the Lebanese delegation in the negotiations based on its own interest; and then the United States, which has pushed us toward negotiations, knowing that our decisionmaking has been arrogated, but doing nothing to liberate our national will.

My biggest fear is that this Lebanese policy, and the position of domestic and regional parties, including Israel and Iran, will lead to the nullification of the Lebanese state's role in the future when an agreement is reached between Israel and the other Arab countries. What happened recently in the south between Israel and Hizballah, under the heading of the "Katyusha agreement," is a dangerous portent of this, inasmuch as Israel reached a "Katyusha agreement" with Hizballah in southern Lebanon while it was negotiating with Lebanon as a state. If this trend continues, Israel is likely to guarantee its security in southern Lebanon though a final, restrictive agreement with Hizballah, while it signs agreements, state by state, with the other Arab states participating in the negotiations. And the "Katyusha agreement" will be at the expense of the state's existence and Lebanon's unity in terms of land and people.

**The Resistance**

[Shirbil] However, how can anyone demand the cessation of the resistance's activity, especially given that you praised the resistance and its operations when you visited the south after the Israeli withdrawal?

[Al-Jumayyil] Every patriotic Lebanese citizen supports any struggle to liberate Lebanon. However, we must be logical with ourselves. Either we go the path of resistance and withdraw from the peace conference, or we stick with the peace conference and go with the diplomatic and political struggle, as every other Arab state is doing, including Syria and the PLO.

In this regard, we should dwell on the dangers of this resistance. The resistance promotes two slogans. The first is sectarian: It calls itself the Islamic resistance. The second is strategic: It is in accord with Iran's position and openly rejects the logic of peace and the decision to participate in the negotiations. This conflicts with Lebanon's position and interest.

Regarding the first slogan, the Lebanese fear that the Islamic resistance's goal after the implementation of Resolution 425 (Israel's withdrawal from the south) is to attack the 1943 National Pact. As a result, we will have returned the domestic crisis to square one, and Lebanon will join those Arab countries that are floundering in dangerous, bloody struggles between the government and fundamentalist currents.

Regarding the second slogan, Lebanon, like the entire Arab world, is looking forward with great hope to the results of the peace conference. How can one Lebanese group alone impede our national path toward the desired peace? Our people in the south expressed its rejection of these practices when it lauded the entry of the legitimate Lebanese Army into the area. But its hopes were quickly dashed when the Army stopped deploying.

**Government's Performance**

[Shirbil] How do you rate the government's performance regarding the negotiations, the resistance, the [Ta'if] Agreement, and Lebanon's domestic situation?

[Al-Jumayyil] The government came to apply the Ta'if Agreement, and it turned against that agreement with the approval of the agreement's very authors.

It came to establish the cabinet organization, and it established the prime minister's organization.

It came to pursue development and economic affairs, and it has wound up dealing narrowly with politics and diplomacy.

It came to rebuild Beirut, and what remained of the south was destroyed.

It came to create national solidarity, but it has ended up seeking solidarity among its ministers and between its ministers and the prime minister, with cabinet statements becoming "appeasements" of one or another minister.

It came to put an end to bribery and corruption, and it is suddenly dismissing a minister, the cleanliness of whose hands is the subject of testimony.

It came for water, electricity, and telephone, and it is polluting the waters and has turned off the electricity terminally. As for telephone, it survives on the warmth of the deals of relatives and intimates.

If we want specific examples of several serious matters, two will suffice:

1. Financial loans: The latest fad is the issue of treasury bonds in dollars, which total about $0.5 billion. If the government is unable to settle them in the future, I fear that foreign agencies or banks will sequester a quantity of Lebanese gold kept abroad to settle the debt to them, which is their right. We will have thus circumvented the decision not to sell the gold.

The borrowing policy in general is very dangerous, and it harms the right of Lebanon and of future generations, who will have to bear a larger burden of it.

**Commercial Center**

2. The commercial center: In this regard, there are four dangerous, sensitive points:

a. The national goal of the project: One of the few merits of the Lebanese war is that it strengthened the position of the Lebanese countryside and major cities, such as Tripoli, Juniyah, al-Nabatiyah, and Ba'labakk, and it

imposed a type of decentralized development. This trend arose primarily from a demand by the people to bring development to them, instead of bringing the people to development. The project's map indicates that the project is proceeding contrary to the common good. It is restricting development to Beirut. I do not know to what extent the capital can absorb the population density to which the project is leading. The Mountain is becoming a suburb of Beirut and a new belt of poverty, and other areas are becoming remote and unable to survive.

b. The design: A project of this type must be harmonious and reflective of our heritage, civilization, and lifestyle. To date, we do not know who is responsible for planning it. We know that Henri Iddah, the Lebanese engineer for the project, resigned to protest the slander to which he was subjected, and we have heard no response to that.

Whenever there is a project like this in any country, there are large competitions in which all energies are mobilized, and national and cultural data are taken into account to determine the project's final plans. Is it conceivable for engineers unknown to us to determine our capital's cultural identity? No state in the world would approach such a project in the arrogant, coercive, and individual manner in which it is being approached in Lebanon.

c. Implementation: For the first time in Lebanon's history, land is being seized to the advantage of a private company. This is contrary to the Constitution. Some retort that this seizure serves a public project. That is stretching things, because the company that will implement the project is a private company that seeks profit, and the Lebanese state is giving it every concession.

Is a real estate company exempt from taxes on any basis? Then, there is a major injustice regarding the rights of the owners of the commercial center, because the capital of a company fixed today might not suffice and will be increased tomorrow. And the holders of real equity will not be able to subscribe. Therefore, the financier will be the one to subscribe, which might lead to his share becoming 90 percent and the share of the property owners 10 percent. This resembles seizure and even fraud regarding the right to and value of property. There is no real guarantee of the property owners' rights regarding either the percent of their participation or their participation in the company's management when the value of their shares drops.

d. The new property owners' identity: The company is open to all capital. We are transferring ownership of our capital city to parties whose identity and goals are unknown. They will determine the development and orientations of our capital city. The state will be unable to control the matter, because the capital involved totals billions of dollars, and there are many ways to manipulate laws.

In our present situation, we must establish a national body that brings together senior engineers, legal specialists, and intellectuals, so that they can give their opinions regarding the project and its provisions. In this way, the project can become impeccable on the national level. Let us not forget that the matter concerns our capital city itself.

More serious than all of that is that official organizations that are supposed to monitor the project—the Finance Ministry, the central bank, and the Development and Reconstruction Council in particular—are controlled and headed by men who do the bidding of the prime minster, who is the owner of the real estate company. This raises important questions about all of the concessions which are being granted to this real estate company.

I do not understand this haste and exclusivity in building the commercial markets in Beirut. If the Lebanese war has ended, why limit reconstruction to Beirut to the exclusion of other areas. If the war has not ended, by what right are we rebuilding a capital that might be affected by events in other areas. What happened recently in the south suffices to indicate this fear.

In any case, it seems to me that all of the state's slogans concern physical reconstruction. There is nothing about human beings. Where is the concern with the Lebanese person, the consolidation of his Lebanese identity, the provision of his daily needs—all of the "imperial" promises?

[Shirbil] Should the projects be suspended until the individual is developed?

[Al-Jumayyil] On the contrary. I am not opposed to development and reconstruction. But what I fear is that all of these development projects will lack the human element that can energize them. Lebanon has not beckoned solely because of its material culture, but also because of its human energies and its people, who are open to the age and its intellectual and technological requirements.

Why do Lebanese who have helped develop and build numerous countries in the East and West hesitate to build their homeland today? Is it out of negligence? Or do they lack confidence in the current situation, the imposed solutions, and the current regime's men and institutions?

The intellectual energies that were a source of pride for Lebanon and the spring of its florescence and superiority have despaired and emigrated. The war years have not helped to create new talent to replace them. On the contrary, the level of education and culture, even morals, has declined. Nonetheless, we have yet to perceive any concern for this human aspect. This is indicated by the statements and slogans of officials, who speak only of physical reconstruction. Also, the budgetary allocations earmarked for the educational, cultural, vocational, and health sectors are only nominal compared to the those designated for physical reconstruction. This is extremely dangerous in the building of homelands, because we will have equipped ourselves with an infrastructure that lacks

the patriotic human element: financiers and investors will exploit fortunate Lebanese and foreigners, and we will have entrenched the so-called five-percent system.

[Shirbil] Was your administration more concerned with developing the individual?

[Al-Jumayyil] Since beginning my national work, my concern with human, cultural, and intellectual matters has surpassed every other concern. 'The House of the Future' reflected this orientation. When I assumed the presidency, I took two basic measures in particular:

The first measure aimed to use compulsory military service to fuse Lebanese youth in the pure national crucible of the Lebanese Army, which elevates national loyalty above every other loyalty.

The second measure aimed to achieve a qualitative leap at the Lebanese University regarding the academic level and the level of equipment. For the first time, we introduced colleges of sciences for medicine, engineering, pharmacy, etc. We established branches of these important colleges in all Lebanese areas in a balanced manner as part of a comprehensive development plan. This was in contrast to the past, when these colleges were the exclusive purview of foreign universities and beyond the means of all groups in Lebanese society.

However, the military, security, and political circumstances in the country and region did not permit me at that time to realize my hopes and wishes in this regard.

These are examples, not an exhaustive list.

[Shirbil] Is there an alternative to the current prime minister at present?

[Al-Jumayyil] Can a country's fate depend on one person? I believe that this question insults Sunni leaders. The Sunni sect in Lebanon has produced great men. It still possesses top people able to bear responsibility. Regrettably, the current prime minister, who came with unprecedented popular and international support, has not known how to employ this support to create a modern organization for the council of ministers that participates—in a democratic and balanced manner—with the president and other ministers in conducting national affairs. Rather, he has inserted himself in struggles with ministers, deputies, officials, and even the president occasionally. He has devoted his energies to monopolizing power and encroaching on others' authorities, and he has appointed friends and proteges, thereby destroying the opportunity he had to be an exceptional prime minister.

**Afram**

[Shirbil] What is your opinion on the ouster of [Water and Electricity] Minister George Afram?

[Al-Jumayyil] This is an example of what I said previously. The dismissal is part of a plan to intimidate and a means for nullifying Lebanon's will. These means are many. For example, General Michel 'Awn, who represents a major current, was deported from Lebanon in a manner that violates the Constitution and the law. He was deported in the scope of a constitutional heresy, whose perpetrators will bear direct responsibility. The intimidation, threat, use of the courts, and direct pressure practiced against me is another form of browbeating. The method used against Afram is a form of intimidation whose message is that whoever defies an individual decision will face this fate.

Regarding Afram's case, it is regrettable that we are concerned [only] with the manner of his ouster. No one has dwelt on the crux of the matter, namely his refusal to sign off on the award of a more expensive electricity contract to another company. A commission of inquiry was not formed. We did not find out why he was dismissed. This is intimidation. Who among the other ministers can now criticize the commercial center project, loans, or any other project?

**Buma [as published]**

[Shirbil] The Deputy Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, Eli al-Farzali, said that the Buma Commission is willing to provide you with protection so that you may appear before it in Beirut.

[Al-Jumayyil] Thank you very much. I am protected when I am summoned arbitrarily to testify, but my legal right as a former president to the Army's protection has yet to be honored by the state.

[Shirbil] Al-Farzali said that the Buma Commission was not informed about your response to it before the 3d of last August.

[Al-Jumayyil] I was informed about the commission's request, and I responded to it through a letter which Ambassador Johnny 'Abduh received from me in Paris. I transmitted a letter to 'Abduh which is clear on three points:

1. Inasmuch as no new element has arisen in the case, the subject of my first letter, I can only repeat my first response, formally and basically.

2. If there are points which truly merit an expansion of the investigation, I am surprised that whoever claims the right to investigate has not bothered to consult with the French organization that is primarily concerned with the matter.

3. Moreover, if there are actually rights that might be lost, I draw their attention and warn them against failing to fulfill their duty, as I mentioned. Therefore, they must not let their rights lapse because of the passage of time, which, under French law, is ten years, which will elapse soon.

[Shirbil] Are you willing to testify before the commission in Beirut.

[Al-Jumayyil] Going to Beirut is not the problem, because the entire issue is political. I went to Beirut last summer. The case was brought up, and I was not approached by anyone regarding anything.

In this context, the Buma case was opened. Although it includes a large financial scandal involving millions of dollars, the chairman of the commission, in a statement to AL-HAYAH to be exact, concluded that "responsibilities in the Buma case are likely to be omissive, in which case it is not possible to make the people bear what it is not permitted to make them bear."

**The Opposition**

[Shirbil] How do you classify the opposition in Lebanon today?

[Al-Jumayyil] The opposition is proscribed. There is Patriarch Safir, who always stresses the axioms and remains a burning ember of hope, and there is Dr. Pierre Mukhaybar as well, who calls things what they are.

[Shirbil] And abroad?

[Al-Jumayyil] The consolidation of opinion is a constant goal of mine in preparation for unifying ranks and efforts toward an overwhelming reclamation of a right [istihqaq dahim]. We were on the verge of success in this course. But errors precluded our success. We will inevitably succeed in the future in what we are doing now, because the errors can be overcome.

**The Phalange Party**

[Shirbil] What is your position on the Phalange Party today?

[Al-Jumayyil] The obstacles that block me and prevent me from returning to the country are also among the means for hindering the Phalange Party and precluding a major Phalange reconciliation, which we regard as the first step for a Christian reconciliation and subsequently a national dialogue between all sects.

The party has begun a modest but important experiment in turning to its base to elect leaders. I hope that this experiment will continue and that it will spread throughout all party positions at all levels. This is one of the conditions for a reconciliation between the party base and its officials.

The party leadership must also define the line that divides the political realism of which it speaks from the national position which the Phalange Party has frequently supported and worked for. Failure to define this line which divides between realism and adherence to essential matters exposes the party to national carelessness, because the party thereby becomes a tool for taming the Lebanese cause, whereas it has been a hero that defends it.

**Between Two Tenures**

[Shirbil] Amin al-Jumayyil's tenure saw the collapse of the Lebanese pound, wars, and displacement, whereas Ilyas al-Hirawi's tenure has seen peace, the return of emigres, and the stabilization of the pound.

[Al-Jumayyil] The question is provocative and influenced by the war of rumors. These rumors are intended to distort my tenure, because I rejected any path, option, or agreement inconsistent with my oath and Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. These rumors also aim to destroy any new role for myself by driving away all leaders who reject the current fait accompli.

Far from all of these systematic rumors and tendentious lies, which have obliterated the truth and transformed the rumors into reality in the people's minds, history will treat fairly what I have done and what some did not understand at the time. It suffices for my pride that I protected Lebanon from any agreement or arrangement that infringes on the principle of sovereignty and independence, such as the abrogation of the Cairo Agreement [of 1969 which defined the parameters of Palestinian activities in Lebanon], opposition to the tripartite agreement, and non-ratification of the 17 May agreement [with Israel] when I sensed that it would expose national unity and Lebanon's Arab relations.

Also, my conscience is at rest, because I did not soil my hands during my tenure in the national internecine killing, especially the internecine Christian killing. All of the incidents that occurred during my tenure were perpetrated by others in Lebanon and abroad, all whom are now sitting happily in power.

Regarding the Lebanese pound, which began to decline because of the incidents and intrigues of others, especially immediately after the Israeli invasion and the Mountain war, which was imposed from outside, we were able to restore confidence in, and curb the decline of, Lebanon's currency by virtue of the bold policy which I followed at the time. The pound began to recover gradually in the last year of my tenure, reaching 350 pounds to the dollar, not 2,800 pounds to the dollar, which occurred under the current administration. Despite all of the government's current efforts and the credibility, trust, and support of which it boasts, it has failed to return to the pound to its level of 350 pounds to the dollar. Moreover, all of its efforts have aimed to keep the pound from declining from the level of 1,700 pounds to the dollar, as is the case now.

### Khaddam Receives PFLP's Habash, Stresses Support

*JN1409185893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has stressed to George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], Syria's continued support for the Palestinian people and their national rights until the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Habash stressed the continued struggle against the [PLO-Israel] agreement inside and outside the occupied homeland.

The Syrian vice president received a PFLP delegation, led by its Secretary General George Habash, today. A PFLP spokesman told Radio Monte Carlo that the talks dealt with the political developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas following the signing of the submission agreement by Yasir 'Arafat and his team, as the spokesman put it. [passage omitted]

### PLA Chief of Staff Vows Loyalty to Al-Asad

*JN1109163993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Sep 93*

[Text] Damascus, 11 Sep (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] on the 29th anniversary of the army's establishment. The cable said:

As we celebrate the 29th anniversary of the PLA, which embodies Palestinian national unity, we are overwhelmed, more than at any time before, with feelings of pride and loyalty toward you—a brave and wise historic leader—for whom our army, people, and Arab nation have recorded in radiant letters his pioneer pan-Arab stands, the distinguished national accomplishments, and the nation's deep trust and world respect.

Your sound instructions, vanguard genuine principles, and continuous paternal care have placed the PLA in its correct national and pan-Arab position, in the forward trench of confrontations and sacrifices with our comrades on the common road and destiny—the brave Syrian Armed Forces—recording the briliant chapters of heroism and sacrifice in various positions of honor, pride, and loftiness, under your unique leadership and your fluttering banners.

Proceeding from a deep conviction etched in the conscience of sons of the PLA, the masses of the Palestinian people, and the Arab nation, we have full confidence in you and firmly believe in your vanguard pan-Arab policy. Our continuous efforts to enhance Syrian- Palestinian cohesion has been an introduction to effective Arab solidarity as a firm course that continues to confront all perils and challenges engulfing the Arab nation.

In my name and on behalf of all the PLA officers, NCO's, and fighters and other ranks, we extend to your excellency sincerest feelings of love and loyalty as a unique leader and a proud pan-Arab hero who, with his acumen and ingenuity, can light the flares of hope in the darkness and labyrinth of the dangers and challenges brought about by international changes.

### Signing Ceremony for PLO-Israeli Accord Criticized

*JN1409184493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin seized the chance to hold a grand ceremony for the first small Palestinian-Israeli step, as its owners describe it. He seized the chance provided to him by this ceremony to demonstrate to the world, which was following this event on television, the image of Israel as a victim of the wars imposed on it, and a victim of violence and terrorism—a victim, represented by Rabin, who came to Washington yesterday to stretch out the hand of peace to its executioners.

This is the image Rabin showed to the world, which was astonished by what it was hearing about the Israeli tears and blood that have been shed, and the Israeli mothers who lost their sons as a result of violence and terrorism. Television network cameras followed the impact of the emotional speech by Rabin and focussed on a member of the audience who was wiping away tears of excitement. In his speech, Rabin was eager to emphasize that he has never harbored hatred toward the Palestinians.

Gentlemen: Those who followed the Washington ceremony yesterday can not help but compare what happened at the opening of the Madrid peace conference and what happened yesterday. At the opening of the Madrid conference, the world saw, via international television networks, a different picture of Israel—a picture of terrorism embodied by Shamir and exposed by the Syrian Arab delegation in front of the world, which was looking at that great event on television screens.

At the Washington ceremony, Rabin extracted tears for mothers who lost their sons and the victims of Arab wars, violence, and terrorism. It seems that Rabin wanted to exploit the chance provided by yesterday's ceremony to eradicate the image of the terrorist Israeli that was entrenched in the minds of people around the world at the opening of the Madrid conference.

No one spoke about Israeli terrorism yesterday. No one reminded General Rabin, who lost his loved ones during the wars, that all these wars were Israeli wars of aggression fought by the Arabs in self-defense. As for hatred,

who said Rabin ever harbored hatred toward the Palestinians? The man who adopted the iron-fist and scorched-earth policies, and the policy of breaking the bones of the young men of the intifadah could never harbor hatred toward a Palestinian or an Arab.

No tears were shed during yesterday's ceremony for the Palestinian and Arab mothers who lost their sons during Israel's wars of aggression against the Arabs. Yesterday's ceremony was a good chance for Rabin to improve Israel's image. We do not know whom to thank for providing this very dear chance to Rabin.

At the Madrid conference, Shamir attempted to forge the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but he failed, escaping with the image of a censured terrorist. At the Washington ceremony, Rabin sought to improve Israel's image and to present Israel as a victim that came to seek peace from its executioner, and he succeeded. We wonder if we should say bravo to the one who provided this chance for Rabin? We leave the answer to the Palestinian and Arab mothers who lost their sons.

### Rabin Opposes Withdrawal to Pre-'67 Borders

*JN1509095293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: In the aftermath of the Gaza-Jericho accord signing ceremony, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reiterated his opposition to withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders, stating that settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain in place, and that their security will remain the responsibility of the Israeli Army. Rabin had earlier stated that Israel is willing to effect a withdrawal on rather than from the Golan.

AL-BA'TH underscores the fact that Rabin has made these statements in Washington, a cosponsor of the peace talks. Everybody, the paper notes, still recalls the statement made by U.S. Secretary of State Christopher one day prior to the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement that he shares with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad the view that Middle East peace must be comprehensive.

AL-BA'TH wonders: How do the Americans view the concept of a comprehensive solution? Does it mean to them withdrawals on rather than from the occupied Arab territories, as Israel believes? Or does the U.S. Administration think otherwise?

AL-BA'TH believes that the future will show everything, and that it is not Israel alone which will decide the issue of withdrawal. Indeed, the Arabs, particularly Syria, have also decided about the issue of withdrawal. With respect to Syria, it cannot accept any solution that would fail to bring about complete and total withdrawal from the Golan.

AL-BA'TH affirms that the statements made by U.S. officials on the just and comprehensive peace that would be brought about by complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories will remain words unless they are matched with deeds during the peace talks, which have continued for almost two years without achieving their purpose.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Whoever believes that what has taken place will either establish just and comprehensive peace, or bring about security and stability in the region, is mistaken. Just peace lies in the full implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, and also in subscribing to the principle of trading land for peace. Unless this is achieved, the region will, to say the least, remain devoid of true peace.

TISHRIN newspaper comments on the same issue, saying: The statements Rabin has made at a news conference in Washington, expressing his opposition to complete withdrawal from the Golan automatically mean that Israeli statements on peace are false.

TISHRIN adds: Peace requires practical stands as well as tangible moves. Israel cannot sidestep the components and requirements of the peace process.

The paper indicates that Israel is evading the resolutions of international legitimacy and the U.S. peace initiative, which is grounded in the principle of trading land for peace, even though these two key elements are the very foundations of the peace process. Israeli evasion of all this, the paper adds, means that Israel is opposed to peace, and also that it does not want to see the region enjoy stability, tranquility, and security.

TISHRIN says: Out of immense concern for rendering the peace efforts a success, Syria has responded favorably to the requirements of peace and rejected partial solutions and phased settlements. Events have shown that such solutions and settlements do not achieve durable peace, but rather further complicate the regional situation.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Israel will continue to voice its condemnable stands by resorting to word play and claiming that it is offering new ideas and positive proposals to promote peace. By saying that he is willing to effect a withdrawal on rather than from the Golan, Rabin has shown that Israel has definitely remained undesirous of comprehensive and just peace.

## Afghanistan

### Attack from Russian Territory, Overflights Reported

*LD1409191693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Russian [words indistinct] yesterday and today subjected residential areas of Chahab to heavy weapons fire. The attack continued for (?four hours) and destroyed forested areas and pistachio fields. At the same time, jet aircraft crossed the border and conducted threatening maneuvers over villages.

### Tehran Radio Notes Shelling

*LD1509104193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] According to Kabul Television's report, during the past two days residential areas in Chaha township in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province have been under heavy artillery fire. The report, which does not mention anything about the possible casualties of the shelling, adds: Also during the past two days, Russian fighter aircraft have violated the airspace over some parts of Afghanistan's border areas.

### Hezb-e Eslami's Hekmatyar Attacks Kabul

*LD1409190493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Hekmatyar today subjected Kabul to (?rocket) and heavy weapons attacks, hitting the areas of Deh Khodaidad, Qabelby, and Qala-e Zaman Khan and residential areas around the customs house. The Hezb-e Eslami attacks started at 1300 and are still in progress. Kabul garrison forces have embarked on defensive measures. A number of [words indistinct] including children, women, and old men have been killed, and the attack has also caused material losses.

### Decree Forms Body To Draft Interim Basic Law

*LD1309213493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Sep 93*

[Text] The Press office of the Presidency reports that a decree has been issued by the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the formation of a commission to draft the interim basic law of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

After 14 years of heroic jihad against an arrogant superpower in order to keep the lofty flag of Islam flying, and to obtain freedom, sovereignty and social prosperity, Afghanistan stands at a special stage in its contemoprary history, a stage which is considered the start of [word indistinct] and restructuring, progress, and, consequently, universal prosperity and security.

Therefore, in line with the special conditions of this stage of our history, and on the basis of laws and principles, a number of credible jehadi, social personalities, ulema, and scholars have joined together to prepare the draft of the interim basic law of the country following consultations with the Presidency of the country. The aims of this commission are to: better organize the current affairs of the country, which comply with the special conditions of the present stage; consolidate and ensure legal regularity; ensure national unity and the defense of territorial integrity of the country; ensure the rights of all fraternal tribes and nationalities of this country; determine the responsibilities and authority of every organ of state; enhance the standard of life of the people; and provide suitable opportunities for all compatriots to assist with developing and strengthening the national economy, which is presided over by esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, general amir of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan [Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami]

A commission which consists of ulema, scholars, lawyers, and credible social, legal, and cultural personalities, is approved to make it possible to: discuss the draft in a way which makes it possible to respond to the immediate necessities of our Islamic society and to make it ready to pass through the legal procedures of a commission designed to draft the interim basic law of the country. The commission will have the following membership:

Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi as president of the commission.

Esteemed Professor Abdorrab Rasul Sayaf, as secretary of the commission.

Members of the commission are as follows:

Esteemed Engineer Qutboddin Helal; esteemed Mawlawi Arsala Rahmani; esteemed Ustad Tawana; esteemed Qasem Khan; esteemed Sediqi; esteemed Qazi Mohmmad Amin Waqad; esteemed Sayd Nurrollah Emad; esteemed Eng. Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai; esteemed Sayd Omar; esteemed Jawed; esteemed Wahedyar; esteemed Eng. Obaidollah; esteeemd Ayatollah Taqadosi; esteemed Ayatollah Fazel; esteemed Dr. Abdorrahman; esteemed Mawlawi Sakhidad Fayez; esteemed Mawlawi Fayzan; esteemed Mawlawi Abdorrahim; esteemed Najiollah; esteemed Mawlawi Ahmad Gul; esteemed Mozamel; esteemed Mawlawi Faizolbari; esteemed Ezharol Haq; esteemed Mawlawi Samiollah; esteemed Mawlawi Walajan Wasiq; esteemed Dr. Mohammad Anwar; esteemed Mirzajan Dalili; esteemed Ashrati; esteemed Merajoddin Kharotai; Esteemed Prof. Mohammad Asghar; esteemed Emaq; esteemed Eblagh; esteemed Musa Nehmat; esteemed Ghaleb; esteemed Babrakzai; esteemed Mahbob Elahi; esteemed Qari Elhamoddin; esteemed Mohammad Daud Naseri; esteemed Mohammad Hadi Hadi; esteemed Akbari; esteemed Abdol Karim Zare'; esteemed Mawlawi Mir Afghan.

Taking into account the lofty principles of the distinguished religion of Islam and the legal principles necessary for a society, the commission is dutybound to complete this draft, as a strong foundation of the country's legal and executive system, before the election of the parliament and the approval of a constitution, to stabilize the situation and to universalize law; and to present it to the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for it to receive assent and formal declaration.

[Signed] Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

## Bangladesh

### Education Minister Khan Tenders Resignation

*BK1209154693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 Sep 93*

[Text] Education Minister Shamsul Islam Khan [title as heard] has tendered his resignation to the prime minister, citing his health. The president today accepted his resignation. The prime minister has entrusted Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan with the Education Ministry portfolio in place of the Ministry of Planning.

### Three Cabinet Ministers Inducted; Portfolios Changed

*BK1309153893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 13 Sep 93*

[Text] Two new ministers and a minister of state have been inducted into the cabinet. President Abdur Rahman Biswar administered the oath to the ministers at a simple ceremony in the president's house in Dhaka today. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was present on the occasion.

The two new ministers are Akbar Hossain and Mir Shaukat Ali. Akbar Hossain has been given the Environment and Forest Ministry and Mir Shaukat Ali the Food Ministry. New minister of state, Dr. Abdul Moeen Khan, has been given the responsibility of the Planning Ministry.

Meanwhile, portfolios of several ministers and ministers of state have been reshuffled. M.K. Anwar has been given the charge of water transport and Shamsul Islam has been given the Ministry of Commerce. Lutfur Rahman Khan has been made the minister of state for industry and Harunur Rashid has been made minister of state for relief. Abdullah Al-Noman has been retained as the minister for fisheries and livestock and Gayeshwar Chandra Roy as the minister of state for environment and forest. With the induction of new ministers, the cabinet has now 23 ministers, 16 ministers of state and three deputy ministers.

## India

### Rao Views Accord With China as Positive Breakthrough

*BK1409160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The prime minister has said that the recent peace and tranquility agreement with China is a positive breakthrough in our bilateral relations. He asserted that the accord does not compromise our territorial claims, saying China now has a better understanding of India's viewpoints and has shown appreciable change in her attitude to have friendly and cordial relations with us. He was addressing the combined conference of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force commanders in New Delhi today.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said that a study group comprising officers from the Ministries of Defense, External Affairs, and other concerned departments needs to be formed to evaluate and study the situation arising out of the agreement. The group will also recommend further measures in the direction of maintaining peace and stability in the area.

About Pakistan, the prime minister said India's efforts have always been to improve relations with that country. He called upon the leadership in Islamabad to come forward and respond to India's peaceful and conciliatory gestures by stopping abetment and aid to militants in the northern parts of our country.

The prime minister also spoke about the global security scenario and said that the signing of agreements between U.S. and Russia on reduction of strategic nuclear arsenal and banning of nuclear weapons testing are positive developments. The prime minister called upon the commanders to accord first priority to self-reliance in the production of spare parts.

Earlier, the three service chiefs of Navy, Army, and the Air Force in their presentations highlighted the prevailing security scenario in our neighborhood and the steps required to meet the security threat.

### Panelists View Outcome of Rao's PRC Visit

*BK1309141593 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1630 GMT 8 Sep 93*

[Panel discussion with former Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey, Professor G.P. Deshpande of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, and Industrialist Govind Hari Singhania, moderated by correspondent Om Gupta; place and date not given; from the "Current Affairs" program—recorded]

[Text] [Gupta] Many historic decisions were made during Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China. We have taken a very important step toward resolving the border dispute that has been lingering between the two countries for more than 30 years.

We have decided to remove tension along our long boundary line completely. Building mutual confidence is essential for establishing peace and stability along the border. The military commanders will now meet regularly for this purpose. The two sides will refrain from activities that may increase tension or create mutual distrust. The two sides will also do their best to avoid any intrusion into each other's airspace; a subcommittee comprising officials and military commanders from the two countries will be set up soon to try to ensure the full implementation of this agreement.

The agreement signed by the two countries yesterday sent a wave of jubilation throughout the country. Even the bitterest critics of the government have wholeheartedly supported the agreement. In spite of this, it will take some time for the people to understand this agreement fully because of the complexities in the bilateral relationship and its various dimensions.

How will peace be maintained at the existing line of control? The agreement has been called neither a surrender [samarpan] nor a compromise, and there has been no talk about determining the existing line of control through it. Then what, actually, is the agreement? We have with us today Professor Muchkund Dubey, who has played a role in the formulation of India's foreign policy for a long time. Professor, please give us the background on the actual meaning of this agreement.

[Dubey] The most important aspect of the agreements signed in connection with the boundary question is to determine the line of control wherever there is any dispute. There are three or four places where there is a dispute about the line of control, and this may create difficulties in the future. If the line of control is determined in these three or four places, permanent peace and tranquillity can be established along the border, which, in my opinion, is the most important part of this agreement.

Some reports have come in indicating that if an agreement—an understanding—is reached on the line of control across the entire border region, this would be the most important step toward the final settlement of the boundary question. I think that this kind of notion is illusory because the two things—maintenance of peace along the border and final settlement of the border question—are not really directly related. I also think that this kind of statement might create a misunderstanding among the public. It might create a feeling among the people that we are ready to recognize the line of control as the international boundary line. This, in turn, means that we are ready to give up the Aksai Chin region. Even if it is appropriate to do so, we will have to mobilize a popular consensus. The people would have to be convinced, and the issue would have to be debated in parliament. Therefore, I am satisfied with the fact that the official spokesmen from both sides stated very clearly that this agreement is not closely linked with the final settlement of the border issue, and that the process to find a final settlement of the border question will be pursued more vigorously, will be made more dynamic, and will be further expedited.

[Gupta] Prof. Deshpande, the news about this agreement raised a question in the mind of the common man that we have perhaps accepted, if only temporarily, China's right to our land which it has been occupying for more than 30 years. As a result, whenever we sit together for a final settlement, yesterday's agreement will be in the way. Do you agree with this (?fear) in the mind of the common man? If yes, then what do you feel; what is the meaning of this agreement?

[Deshpande] In my opinion, it is correct to some extent. If we look at the history of the last 20 to 25 years, it is becoming increasingly more difficult, in my opinion, for India to alter the results of the incidents of 1962. I do not think that any politician can say that tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, or for that matter any time in the future, he will be able to alter this basic outline. In my opinion, the question of illusion, which we just discussed, is correct at a certain level. This is really an illusion. Whoever thinks about it... [pauses] I do not think any concrete direction has emerged over the past 20 years as to how India can carry the process forward from here. And to some extent the agreement signed yesterday looks realistic from a level of achieving at least some progress first to avoid any tension or the outbreak of war.

The incidents in the Sumdorong Chu are before us. We must at least be in a position to prevent incidents like those that occurred in the Sumdorong Chu area; incidents which might have led to a big conflict. After this, the Indian people have to think about what more they want to do about this. And in my opinion, this thinking process has not started yet. This agreement can at least serve as a starting point for this purpose.

[Gupta] One of the four agreements signed yesterday relates to border trade. Before discussing that accord in detail, I would like to hear Singhania's views. In today's world, the (?basis) of a relationship between two countries is trade and economic ties. Do you feel that after yesterday's agreements, India and China will be able to promote their bilateral trade ties, which are currently not very good?

[Singhania] I think that both India and China are eager to promote trade. When we went to China with a delegation a month ago, their remarks reflected their earnest desire to promote bilateral trade relations. Today, China's total annual trade is $156 billion, while the volume of India-China trade is only $350 million. So we do not mean anything to their trade.

Their chairman said that they want to increase our bilateral trade tenfold within a very short time. It is gratifying that they want to increase bilateral trade. We also want it. We have to identify the products we can sell to them and things we can buy from them so that we can increase our trade as soon as possible. As you know, China has been witnessing tremendous progress over the past few years, and their growth rate was 18 to 20 percent

last year. There is no denying that the economic reform policy now being pursued by China started 13 years ago, while in India this work was started only two years ago. They have learned many things in these years and have increased their business.

They are facing shortages of many things and that is why they want to import them. China produces 80 million tons of iron per year, which is the second or third largest in the world. Even then they are in need of iron, because they are witnessing a construction boom. Wherever you go, you will find roads, houses, and hotels being built. So iron is one thing we can export; they want iron ore. The quality of their iron ore is not good; that is why they import about 20-25 million tons a year. Our country, India, exported only 1 million tons of iron ore last year. I understand that we must try to export 5-7 million tons as soon as possible.

They manufacture very inexpensive pharmaceuticals we can import. But there is a problem in this context; it will create difficulty for our local pharmaceutical manufactures.

[Gupta] Well, we will discuss these different things later. But first, I was thinking that, despite yesterday's agreements, there are several outstanding issues that need to be resolved in the near future, if not immediately. Only then will we be able to reap the real benefits of these agreements. Do we not expect China to... [pauses] When China provides assistance to Pakistan in the form of missiles and other technical things, Pakistan ultimately puts them to use in the internal affairs of Pakistan. If China expects us to support it on the question of Tibet, then we can at least expect China not to provide the kind of assistance to Pakistan that can be used against India. Prof. Deshpande, what is your opinion on this?

[Deshpande] The things that have been published in the press or seen regarding the prime minister's visit to China are what create doubts and suspicions in the minds of people like me. The first thing is, suppose that China provides arms to Pakistan... [pauses] We did raise this issue with Beijing, but Li Peng told us that China is not against India. And if we read press reports, we find that we have accepted what is called China's self-defiance, but...

[Gupta, interrupting] Yes, I agree.

[Deshpande] As far as politics and diplomacy is concerned, we have perhaps already come to the conclusion that as long as centralized power remains at the helm of affairs in China—they do not have a Russian-type situation there—and there is no hope or scope for any change in that power structure, we will, perhaps, not be able to move forward from this point. I am again saying that after reading these things, doubts have arisen in my mind. [words indistinct] I do not feel that things will move forward from here for the moment. Perhaps in the future some progress may be achieved.

[Gupta] Mr. Dubey, I would like you to say something in reply to what has been stated by Mr. Deshpande. But before that, I would like to add here that strategic experts and international affairs specialists agree that China operates on the premise that there are relatively weaker governments in India and Pakistan, as a result of which they are not able to fully control their respective domestic situations. Problems like that in Kashmir are the direct fallout of that. China does not think this about itself, however. Beijing admits that it has a powerful government that is capable of dealing with the issues in Tibet and (?Xinjiang), and that is why India should support it. Would you like to say something about the opinions of the experts I just cited?

[Dubey] I think that the intentions behind China's actions in the field of armaments and its supply of arms and equipment to India's neighbors is unclear. Seeking clarifications on this—as much as it was practicable at the diplomatic level—should have been one of the main objectives of the visit to China because our security is threatened—not only by China's arms supplies to Pakistan and Burma, but also by China's own rearmament program. China is currently engaged in establishing itself as one of the greatest military powers in the world. They are testing medium-range missiles. They are busy manufacturing and buying submarines in order to equip themselves with sea-borne nuclear weapons. They are engaged in the process of acquiring sophisticated (?fighter) aircraft. In this manner, the Chinese are moving to increase their capabilities with all modern machinery that can carry nuclear weapons. This undoubtedly will have a far-reaching impact on our security. As far as the supply of arms and equipment to Pakistan is concerned, it has a direct impact on our security. There is also a question about Burma, which complicates our problems in our border region. Reports are coming in from some places that, based on its aid to Burma, China wants to gain access to the Bay of Bengal. Clarifications on all these things should have been sought during the visit, but no light has yet been shed on it, according to the reports we have received so far.

The other thing is that if we compare the political situations in India and China, we find that the situation in India is undoubtedly weaker than that in China.

[Gupta] I fully endorse Mr. Dubey's view that China wants to quickly establish itself as a strategic power in the world. But China is developing very rapidly not only in the strategic field, but in the economic field as well. In this context, as Mr. Singhania said just now, I feel that China is not very interested in doing business with India along traditional lines. As far as the import and export of traditional goods is concerned, China is India's rival. Therefore, one of the accords signed yesterday was on opening one more border point for bilateral trade. Right now, however, there is a limited scope of trade transactions, to the tune of only 1 to 2.5 million rupees, no more than that. China believes that joint ventures in the technological field can be established between India and

China. For example, they always say that rockets produced in their country are very cheap and we should use their rockets to launch our satellites. You have been discussing the goods that we can trade, such as crude iron and iron ore. During your visit, what did you think about China's attitude in this regard? Is there any equilibrium between your viewpoint as an Indian industrialist and China's attitude?

[Singhania] Lately, the demand in their country for all kinds of goods has increased substantially. Therefore, as long as they do not increase their own production, they will buy commodities from you because of their requirements. But, when their own production increases, they will stop buying from you. Today, they want to make purchases to serve their own interests. You have rightly said that we are rivals in all traditional items. However, due to their rapid progress, they are experiencing shortages of goods. They are badly in need of those goods. When they see that these goods are being manufactured in India in bulk and that they can buy them cheaply, they will buy from you. In that way we can have trade. For example, China manufactures more than 1 million automobiles, whereas India produces many fewer than that. Even then, they import about 300,000 to 400,000 cars. So, if we can export things at a price suitable to them, they will buy from us. Tomorrow, when their production increases, they will not need it, and hence will not buy from us. Thus, business runs on the basis of local requirements.

[Gupta] Yes. One of the other two accords signed yesterday was on helping each other and exchanging information in the field of the environment with a view toward protecting it. And similarly, accords were also signed for the exchange of radio and television programs and movies, providing for their exchange free of cost at least once every six months and also for screening movies on an equitable basis in each other's country. Accords were also signed in the field of indigenous medicines, to jointly develop, nurture, and promote them. Mr. Deshpande, I would like to know your views on whether we should move ahead in all these sectors continuously and rapidly.

[Deshpande] First, on the minor things you mentioned, such as the environmental issue, items published in the Chinese media, which I have had the opportunity to read, show that the environmental thinking and movement which are so prevalent in India are not seen in China.

There is definitely an official position on things such as human rights. They go on saying that human rights are respected there, and so on. But there is no role for any thinking or movement there. Hence, I definitely sense a problem. In our country today, whether there is a question on the environment or human rights, it is discussed at two levels—either at the level of a movement or at the political or government level. In China, it takes place at only one level. Now, how can we solve the arithmetic involving these two approaches? This is one problem.

Another problem is that it is very difficult to say now what sort of doubt there is in the mind of the common man. China wants to improve cooperation and create more economic stake [preceding two words in English] in one another or create a political stake. This political stake can be created because of the nature of the emerging new order, under which China's viewpoint can match ours to some extent. Now China may, perhaps, reap one benefit from this. They may be hoping that the border dispute will be pushed to the back burner. But in my opinion, the time has now come to say that the idea generally accepted in our country on the border dispute—that they are 100 percent wrong or we are 100 percent right—seems to be unsound. We will also have to view it with a somewhat open mind and disposition.

[Gupta] There is also a very positive aspect on India-China relations in these accords, and that is that both India and China are two ancient and great nations from the viewpoint of their size, population, and history. They have improved their mutual relations and resolved their mutual disputes by sitting together face to face without the help of any intermediary. This, for the first time, has brightened the prospects for two neighboring states in Asia in particular, and in the Third World in general, to resolve their problems by sitting together. Mr. Dubey, what do you think? What impact will these Sino-Indian accords have on the stability of Asia, on the neighboring states of Asia involved in disputes, on the India-Pakistan-China triangle, and on the entire Third World?

[Dubey] I agree with you that whenever any agreement is reached between two larger countries like India and China, it definitely has a positive impact on neighboring states, on the whole of Asia, and the world. But the significance of the agreements signed needs to be understood in the correct perspective and in a balanced manner. I think that the relationship between China and India is currently asymmetrical. The complex problems between China and India can be resolved only when we enhance our own domestic power and economic strength and when China realizes this. Relations between us will only be stable under the above conditions; this would have a very good impact on Asia and the world.

[Gupta] I think the manner in which Mr. Dubey has expressed his viewpoints on these accords leaves no room for any further discussion. We should admit that, even though there may not be complete agreement between India and China, the fact that has emerged from these accords is that... [pauses]

These records surely reflect the intent of the two countries to talk and discuss issues with mutual accommodation. The border problem was so entangled that it slightly diminished the importance of the other agreements signed together with it. Both India and China have admitted that they will take some time in resolving the border question because of the complexities involved in it, but it does not mean that progress in other fields will be stopped immediately. For example, we have decided to open a border trading point in yet another region,

which witnessed 1 million rupees in trade during the last year. Now it is expected that with the opening of this new point, trade will increase threefold this year. India and China are facing similar problems in the field of the environment; hence, efforts will be made to continue to work on the environment. Experts from the two countries will sit together and discuss how to protect the environment. The last decision that has been made is that we will exchange popular films and radio and television programs and make arrangements to show them in each other's countries. We should also jointly develop traditional medicines such as the Ayurvedic, Unani, Tibbiya, and similar medicines made from herbs in China. What is now needed is to maintain these discussions at a high and effective level and to promote bilateral cooperation in trade and other fields. On the other hand, we should continue efforts to resolve the outstanding disputes through similar peaceful means, and to maintain the natural role these two Asian giants can play in this region and the entire world.

With this, I thank you all.

### ISRO Chief Says Contract With Glavkosmos Not Broken

*BK1509102993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) chairman, Professor U.R. Rao, said that the contract between the Russian space agency Glavkosmos and ISRO on the sale of cryogenic rocket engines and transfer of knowhow is being executed as per schedule.

In an interview to UNI [United News of India] in Bangalore, he said Russia has not reneged on the agreement and there is no reason to suspect that the contract will be broken. He further said that India has not stopped any of its space programs because of threats of any technology embargo. Professor Rao said that, according to the contract with the Glavkosmos, two cryogenic engines and the technical knowhow are schedule for delivery by 1995-96. However, if the contract is breached, the country would have its indigenous engines ready by 1998 for the Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle. He said the indigenous four-stage Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) carrying an engineering model of the Indian remote sensing satellite will be launched for the first time from the Sriharikota Range next week.

## Iran

### Paper: 'Arafat 'Treason' Punishable by Death

*NC1509075293 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] Tehran, Sept 15 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper on Wednesday [15 September] condemned PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to death for his accord with Israel on limited Palestinian autonomy.

"By handing over the land of Palestine to the occupiers, 'Arafat and his accomplices have betrayed their people and Islam. So they have to be punished," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, a daily close to Muslim fundamentalist hardliners.

"The punishment for treason is death, and no power can stop a nation from exercising its will."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader also faces death threats from Palestinian radicals who have accused him of a sell-out with his deal on limited interim autonomy.

The Iranian media have strongly condemned the deal between Israel and the PLO, which was signed in Washington on Monday, and given extensive coverage of opposition to the accord in the Islamic world.

"This event is not a sign of Israel's might but of discord among Muslims," President Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Tuesday.

### IRNA on U.S. 'Backdoor Entry' Into Peace Deal

*LD1409141493 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 14, IRNA—Washington's overwhelming support for the PLO-Israel pact is an attempt to make a backdoor entry into the nine-month-old so-called peace talks. Its need to associate itself with the peace deal is further enhanced by the fact that the U.S. cannot contend with the trauma of having been bypassed in a crucial deal on an issue that has been a primary area of foreign policy concern since late 40s.

Viewed in the backdrop of the U.S. victory in the Persian Gulf war combined with the new world order, Washington could not afford to be cornered in an issue that has been essentially settled through pacific means. Such a situation should have done the U.S. a great harm when, over the last two years, it has tried to humanize its brutal military adventurism against Iraq by promoting itself as a peaceful mediator in West Asian crises. The U.S.-sponsored West Asian peace talks was the logical outcome of this particular policy.

Herein lies the raison d'etre of U.S. pitchforking the whole issue by playing host to and organizing the grand gala signing ceremony of the peace agreement in Washington today.

But, this is not as simple and as plain as the American seal of approval. Analysts, diplomats and U.S. officials, including President Bill Clinton, are on a wildcat spree to link the self-rule pact to U.S. peace initiatives over a quarter of century. But this is all sheer flattery.

The umpteen U.S. peace initiatives—from Dulles' peace initiative in 1956 to that of Ronald Reagan in 1982 to the Shultz plan in 1988—in the past have been outrightly

rejected by the Palestinians and Arab countries, including one of the staunchest U.S. regional allies, Saudi Arabia.

The U.S.-brokered Camp David accord may be termed as a landmark as far as it led to the establishment of the peace between Egypt and Israel, but it was an abject failure on the front of realizing autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied territories. Yasir 'Arafat described it "slavery in a golden cage," the radical Arab states were furious over Egypt's sell out to the U.S. and Israel and the conservative Arab nations, also the U.S. allies, regarded it a great betrayal.

Hence, the Camp David accord was never considered a model arrangement for peace. Even moderate Arab powers, at the insistence of the U.S., came up with their own peace plans, such as the Fahd plan of 1982 whose main aim was to outdo the Camp David accord.

Then started the recent U.S. brokered peace talks which took off in Madrid in 1991. According to political analysts, that the PLO and Israel held simultaneously secret talks plausibly indicates that they had used the Madrid talks merely to buy time.

Hence, it is indeed a paradox that the West Asia talks even failed to sort out procedural differences while the secret talks yielded PLO's acquiescence to the limited autonomy in the occupied territories.

## Interior Minister, Syrian Envoy on PLO-Israeli Pact

*LD1409210993 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati-Jahromi and Syrian Ambassador to Tehran, Ahmad al-Hasan, today discussed the PLO-Israeli compromise and other issues of mutual interest.

Besharati-Jahromi called the Jericho-Gaza self-rule agreement inked by the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, Yasir 'Arafat, "more dangerous" than the Camp David accord.

Recalling the strong wave of opposition in the Muslim world at the time of the signing of the Camp David accord by Anwar Sadat of Egypt in 1978, Besharati-Jahromi regretted that "today many Muslim countries and Arabs have kept silence or somehow support the accord, although Israel has not retreated from its stands and its suppression of the intifadah."

Al-Hasan said the U.S. through its propaganda and media network is concentrating efforts for international confirmation of the Gaza-Jericho pact signed by 'Arafat and the Zionist premier yesterday.

Besharati-Jahromi underscored the necessity of broadening Tehran-Damascus cooperation to campaign against the drug trafficking and international smuggling. He said Iran was ready to hold talks with Syrian officials in the said areas, and extended an invitation for his Syrian counterpart to visit the Islamic Republic.

## Commentary: Accord Forces PLO To Quash Intifadah

*NC1409192493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat signed an agreement on self-administration in Gaza and Jericho with the Zionist entity in Washington yesterday. Sentiments of opposition to this treaty are rising in Palestinian circles inside and outside the occupied territories, particularly in refugees camps in occupied Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Representatives of Palestinian factions opposed to the peace project with Israel have affirmed that their factions will continue their efforts to explain the dangerous consequences of implementing the Gaza-Jericho plan for limited self-administration.

Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the plan, has declared: We will attempt to prevent the implementation of this scheme and will seek to undermine it.

Speaking in Tunis, where he is trying to coordinate the positions of the plan's opponents inside Fatah, Hawatimah said: This agreement does not involve the restoration of any usurped Palestinian right.

Munir Maqdah, official in charge of Fatah's military wing in Lebanon, announced yesterday that the forces under his command will continue their military and political struggle against the Zionist entity despite the treaty of surrender 'Arafat signed with Israel.

Amid the rising Palestinian sentiments of opposition to the agreement on limited self-administration in Gaza and Jericho, the prospect of inter-Palestinian confrontation is increasing. Numerous political circles have been issuing warnings for the past two weeks about the prospect of growing differences among the Palestinians. This serious prospect has taken on dangerous dimensions, particularly after the announcement of the clauses of the Gaza-Jericho treaty. The treaty was accompanied by a clear Israeli emphasis, uttered by the Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington yesterday, that the future of Middle East peace hinges on the PLO chairman's ability to control violence in the occupied territories. Such statements reflect the Israeli outlook on the peace plan and the PLO's role in the self-administration area. It is easy to conclude that Israel aims to delegate the task of suppressing the intifadah in Gaza and the West Bank to some Palestinian factions after it failed to achieve this objective on its own over the past six years.

## Rafsanjani, Yeltsin View Ties, Regional Problems

*LD1509103493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 93*

[Text] In a telephone conversation this morning, Mr. Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the presidents of Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, discussed important topics in connection with relations between Iran and Russia, the tense situation in Azerbaijan, and the problems in the Republic of Tajikistan.

During their conversation, the presidents of Russia and Iran expressed satisfaction over the developments in bilateral relations and voiced the hope that in the future, with Mr. Yeltsin's official visit to Iran, cooperation will be expanded.

In his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed concern over the situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan and the spread of the Armenia-Azerbaijan war to areas near the Iranian border. He said: We welcome recent efforts to establish peace and tranquillity in that region. Through direct contacts with the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, we are keeping abreast of the regional developments. He added: We hope that with greater cooperation between Iran and Russia, we will be able to witness the establishment of peace and stability in this region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed concern over the internal situation in Tajikistan, and he stressed the need to bring about harmony between the parties involved, so that calm can be established in that country.

In this telephone conversation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, in turn, stressed the importance of coordinating efforts and endeavors between Iran and Russia. He expressed hope that, in the future, these efforts will produce the desired results. He then stressed that military moves near the Iranian border must be stopped. Mr. Yeltsin then expressed Russia's readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran to make these efforts successful.

In reply to remarks made by our country's president about the situation in Tajikistan, the Russian president said: With Iran acting as a coordinator, Russia and Tajikistan can create conditions necessary for establishing calm in the latter country. According to this report, the telephone conversation continued with the two presidents noting the importance of cooperation between countries bordering the Caspian Sea. The two presidents agreed that effective joint efforts must be made by the two countries in that regard, and that a summit of the foreign ministers and leaders of the two countries should be convened in the near future.

## Oil Ministry Denies Transfer of Iraqi Oil

*LD1409085993 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Iran's Oil Ministry in an announcement here Tuesday [14 September] categorically denied reports alleging that Iraqi oil is being transferred to third countries through Iran. It said that the report by London-based daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT merely aimed at tarnishing political reputation of Iran in the implementation of United Nations resolutions in this connection.

"Iran has abided by all the resolutions related to Iraqi economic sanction," added the announcement. The possibility for transferring Iraqi crude by tankers to third countries will be out of imagination, from technical and operational points of view, even under normal circumstances, it stressed.

## Turkish Move To Cooperate With Iraq Viewed

*NC1409155093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 9 Sep 93*

["Turkey's Relations With Iraq"; from the "Developments During the Past Week" program]

[Text] The Turkish and Iraqi foreign ministers held talks in Ankara during the past week. They stressed that the Turkish and Iraqi Governments want to improve bilateral relations and noted that the volume of trade between Turkey and Iraq will soon exceed $3 billion. Turkey has decided to promote its trade with Iraq while the UN Security Council's economic embargo on Iraq remains in effect. Turkey claimed that its economic relations with Baghdad were subject to the UN Security Council's resolutions, but Turkish officials recently moved to call for lifting the embargo on Iraq and resuming Iraq's oil sales through the Karkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline.

The Turkish and Iraqi officials have claimed that the UN embargo has badly damaged the Turkish and Iraqi economies. The Turkish officials have claimed the embargo has affected Turkey's annual trade with Iraq, which totaled $3 billion. They have also claimed that Turkey is losing $750,000 because it can't use the 7.2 million barrels of oil in the Turkey-Iraq oil pipeline, which has not been pumped during the past three years.

Turkey is confronting many economic problems. Political experts believe Turkey's recent approach to its relations with Iraq is important from several viewpoints. Considering Iraq's situation and its weakened military strength, the politicians in Turkey do not regard Iraq as a threat at Turkey's southern border. Ankara believes it can improve Turkey's economy by promoting its relations with Baghdad. In particular, considering the conditions in Iraq and its trade and economic problems, Ankara expects to import cheap oil from Iraq. Turkey wants its private and public sector contracting companies to actively participate in rebuilding Iraq.

Many political observers consider Turkey's move to establish relations with Iraq as being linked with Ankara's and Baghdad's wishes to suppress the Kurdish militants in the two countries. They believe Ankara expects Baghdad to establish a military force capable of dealing with the Kurdish militants opposed to the Turkish Government in return for Turkey's effort to have the embargo on Iraq lifted. Baghdad has conveyed several messages to Turkey calling for improving its relations with Ankara. It has proposed letting Turkey use the oil in the Karkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline and called for settling the Kurdish problem with the participation of all the governments concerned with the problem.

It seems Turkey has agreed to Iraq's proposals, and Ankara hopes to weaken Western pressure on Turkey over its measures to suppress the Kurdish militants opposed to the Turkish Government by drawing the West's attention to the relations among the Kurdish groups that oppose Iraq and Iran.

The Turkish Government is also trying to cooperate with the Baghdad administration to adopt more serious measures against the Kurdish militants.

## Nepal

### Top Communist Leader Calls For Change in Foreign Policy

*BK1309145893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 13 Sep 93*

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 13 (AFP)—Nepal's top communist leader has criticised the government's foreign policy as being too pro-India to the exclusion of the country's other important neighbour, China, state-run radio said Monday.

"We should not tilt towards India only. India, no doubt, is our close neighbour, but we should not forget that China is also expected to emerge as one of the powerful nations in the 21st century," the chairman of the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist, Man Mohan Adhikari, said.

"Foreign policy is an important matter," Adhikari was quoted by the radio as saying.

"But the foreign portfolio was not handled properly by the prime minister and he has neglected to implement the objectives and principles of Nepalese foreign policy," he added.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala also holds the foreign portfolio.

Adhikari, speaking in parliament, also charged Koirala with encouraging anti-Chinese activities by Tibetan activities in Nepal, despite having given Beijing assurances that such activities would not be allowed here.

## Pakistan

### Qureshi: No Plans To Recognize Israel 'At the Moment'

*BK1409144793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, today categorically said that Pakistan had, at the moment, no plan to recognize Israel, as the agreement between Israel and PLO was only the first step toward the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. Addressing a press conference at the Lahore airport before his departure for Islamabad, Mr. Moin Qureshi said that Pakistan had appreciated the agreement as the first step toward the resolution of other issues concerning Palestine, like the status of Baitul Muqaddas [Jerusalem]. He said there were still a number of questions which needed clarity in this regard, and therefore, there was no plan to recognize Israel by the Pakistan Government. He said this agreement would also provide food for thought to the governments and people of the world to justifiably assess the rights of the Palestinian people.

The prime minister said his government was very concerned at the acts of terrorism which are taking place in the Punjab and other provinces. The government, however, is fully prepared to withstand all this. He said necessary steps have been taken to effectively combat terrorism. The prime minister said there was no emergency situation that would prompt a change in the election schedule. With regard to the recovery of bank loans and government dues from the defaulters, the prime minister said:

[Begin Qureshi recording] Firstly, in so far as the defaulters are concerned and bank loans, as you know, our action was initially directed at making sure that those who had large loans would not be eligible for the elections, would not be eligible as candidates unless they paid up the money; and that has been very effective, and we have achieved that objective. But, that is only a small part of resolving that problem because a large number of other defaulters are not standing for elections. So, we are now moving effectively to try to recover the money that the banks owe [as heard] from the other defaulters. For that purpose, we are making some amendments in the banking ordinance in order to give us more effective powers to recover those funds. Aside from that, we have also now prepared the lists of people who have not paid their bills for electricity, for gas, for telephones, and so on. In a number of public utilities, we have prepared the lists of those people and we are now going to start the campaign to recover those unpaid bills. [end recording]

### President Reiterates Country's Nuclear Policy

*BK1409144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Sep 93*

[Text] The president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has reiterated Pakistan's keen desire to promote regional peace and

expressed the hope that the United States will use its influence for early resolution of the Kashmir problem. He said this is a stumbling block in the way of durable peace and stability in the region. He was talking to the visiting commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, General Joseph P. Hoar, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today. The president mentioned the continuing blatant violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He called upon the United States to play its role in stopping atrocities being committed on innocent people, enabling them to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN Resolution. During the meeting, various dimensions of Pak-U.S. relations also came under discussion, and a sure desire was expressed to improve them. The president said Pakistan highly values its relations with the United States and wants to further improve and strengthen them in all fields.

On Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, the president reiterated Pakistan's persistent policy of using this technology for the economic development of the country. Mr. Wasim Sajjad termed the Pressler Amendment as discriminatory.

The commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command appreciated Pakistan's efforts for international peace and security and expressed the U.S. desire to maintain close and friendly relations with Pakistan.

### Article Urges Cost-Effective Defense

*BK1309150193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Sep 93 p 7*

[Unattributed article]

[Text] While there are strong geo-strategic reasons and regional security compulsions to justify Pakistan's large expenditure on defence, the Economy Commission's reported advice to the government to subject this to meaningful scrutiny to improve its cost-effectiveness deserves careful consideration. The Commission is said to have observed that Defence must "obtain optimal benefit" from the allocation made to meet the country's defence requirements. It has, therefore, recommended that a special high-level committee comprising experts who are well-versed in the complexities of defence matters should be set up to recommend measures to ensure improved results from the amount that is allocated to defence from our scarce resources. To this we might add that the three service chiefs should also be involved in such a process. They ought to be able to sit down to work out where cuts can be made.

Notwithstanding the fact that India, with whom we continue to have hostile relations, spends much more military expenditure in absolute terms, Pakistan's principal donors consider its defence outlay quite excessive in relation to our national income. Second, our mounting expenditure on defence has more recently been retarding our socio-economic development because of the growing imbalance in meeting competing claims of defence and development. Some pressing needs of social sectors like education and health have been subjected to a major squeeze because of mounting expenditure for our national security.

The changing international environment brought about by the end of the Cold War also implies a high cut in any concessional external contribution to our defence requirement in the hey day of the Cold War in the fifties are now pressurising us to trim our military expenditure to qualify for any other concessional economic and social assistance. Consequently, we have to borrow on costly terms to finance pressing overseas defence purchases or divert a larger proportion of our own foreign exchange reserves for this purpose.

Against this backdrop all expenditure including those incurred by the defence establishment should be subjected to the strictest possible scrutiny to ensure maximum economy, and to plug any leakages or misprioratisation of public funds. To be avoided is lavish spending on the ceremonial facade of our sprawling bureaucratic outfit in defence as in the civilian secotr. There can also be greater caution in negotiating the purchase of goods and services for the defence ministry as by others in the government set-up. If we have to buy military hardware with our own hard-earned foreign exchange, we must opt for the most competitive deals which, it is well-known, can effect considerable savings compared to what is bought from sources tied to one country under the arrangement of concessional foreign assistance. In sum, we must readjust not only to the political realities of the post-Cold War era but also to a more flexible and diversified market of the fast-changing world for our defence purchases. There is no reason why, with increased tightening of financial discipline, we cannot prune some of our wasteful expenditure in the military sector without affecting the overall defence preparedness of the country.